EXHIBIT 7

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 1 (1 to 4) Conducted on December 20, 2016

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                                                                                 APPEARANCES
           FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
                                                                     2 ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS:
                   ALEXANDRIA DIVISION
                                                                            JOY ODOM, ESQUIRE
                                                                            Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
   ROSY GIRON DE REYES, et al.,
                                                                            777 6th Street, Northwest
            Plaintiffs,
                                                                            11th Floor
                                                                            Washington, D.C. 20001
   WAPLES MOBILE HOME PARK LIMITED
                                                                            202.538.8159
   PARTNERSHIP, et al.,
            Defendants.
                                                                     10
                                                                            SIMON SANDOVAL-MOSHENBERG, ESQUIRE
                                                                            Legal Aid Justice Center
12 Civil No.: 1:16cv563-TSE-TCB
                                                                     12
                                                                             6066 Leesburg Pike
13
                                                                     13
                                                                             Suite 520
14
                                                                             Falls Church, Virginia 22041
15
        Videoconference Deposition of GEORGE C. CARUSO
                                                                            703.778.3450
                    McLean, Virginia
                                                                     16
17
               Tuesday, December 20, 2016
                                                                     17
                      12:37 p.m.
19
20 Job No.: 131024
21 Pages: 1 - 130
22 Reported by: Lisa Kirk
           Deposition of GEORGE C. CARUSO, held at
                                                                             APPEARANCES CONTINUED
   the offices of:
                                                                        ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANTS:
           REED SMITH LLP
                                                                            JUSTIN D. deBETTENCOURT, ESQUIRE
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           Pursuant to Notice, before Lisa Kirk,
   Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the
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                                                                     20
   Commonwealth of Virginia.
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22
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Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 2 (5 to 8) Conducted on December 20, 2016

Conducted on L	Conducted on December 20, 2016				
5	7				
1 CONTENTS	1 Q All right, so Mr. Caruso, have you ever				
2 EXAMINATION OF GEORGE C. CARUSO PAGE	2 been deposed before?				
3 By Ms. Odom 6, 121	3 A Yes, ma'am.				
4 By Mr. deBettencourt 114	4 Q How many times?				
5	5 A Well, I was asked that question in a				
6	6 deposition last year and I think it's five or six.				
,	7 If you've been doing this as many years as I have,				
9 EXHIBITS	8 you don't remember everything anymore, but I've been				
10 (Attached to the transcript.)	9 deposed multiple times.				
11 CARUSO DEPOSITION EXHIBIT PAGE	10 Q All right. Beyond the deposition last				
12 Exhibit 1 Expert Report 6	11 year, have you had any depositions in the last five				
13	12 years?				
14	13 A Yes, one prior to that that would be right				
15	14 at the five-year time frame.				
16	15 Q Okay. What kind of case was that?				
17	16 A That was an employment law case.				
18	17 Q All righty.				
19	18 A I was the corporate representative of my				
20	19 then employer before I retired.				
21	20 Q All right, so since you've been deposed				
22	21 before, you're probably already familiar with the				
	22 rules of the road, so to speak, but I just want to				
6	8				
1 (Caruso Exhibit 1 was marked for	1 go back over them with you. You and I want to try				
2 identification and is attached to the transcript.)	2 to not talk over each other. With you being remote,				
3 PROCEEDINGS	3 that might be a little bit difficult with the lag				
4 MS. ODOM: All right, so Mr. Caruso, we're	4 time, but we'll do our best because the court				
5 going to go ahead and go on the record and the court	5 reporter can only take down one of us at a time.				
6 reporter is going to swear you in in just a minute.	6 I'd ask you to let me finish my question before you				
7 Your testimony today is as if you were giving it in a	7 start to answer and I'll try to let you finish your				
8 courtroom.	8 answer and try not to interrupt you. You				
9 And I just need to ask Mr. deBettencourt if	9 understand, as we discussed a minute ago, that the				
10 he agrees that we can stipulate to Mr. Caruso being	10 testimony you give today is as if you were giving it				
11 sworn remotely.	11 in court in front of a judge and jury.				
12 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Yes.	12 A I do.				
	13 Q So you've got a responsibility to tell the				
MS. ODOM: Okay. So the parties are agreed 14 on that and the court reporter will go ahead and give	14 truth and the whole truth there. Is there any				
5 you the oath now. 15 reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of why you can't give you have a new reason that you're aware of which you have a new reason that you're aware and you're aware of the you're aware of					
16 Whereupon, 16 best and most accurate testimony today?					
17 GEORGE C. CARUSO, 17 A None that I'm aware of.					
18 being first duly sworn or affirmed to testify to the	18 Q All right. So I saw in your resumé to your				
19 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,	19 report, which we've marked as Exhibit A, and I				

EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFFS 21 you're familiar with it. And if you need to refer 22 back to your report at sometime, just let us know

20 was examined and testified as follows:

BY MS. ODOM:

21

22

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20 regret you don't have a copy of it, but I understand

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 3 (9 to 12)
Conducted on December 20, 2016

1 and we'll work that out.

- 2 A Okay.
- 3 Q We can, maybe, fax it to you or we can hold
- 4 it up to the camera if you need to look at it for
- 5 any reason. But I saw you've got about 40 years of
- 6 experience in managing residential properties; is
- 7 that right?
- 8 A I started in 1972, so, yeah. That would
- 9 be, what, 44 years?
- 10 Q That's right, by my calculation. And you 11 asset manage about 5,000 multifamily units in D.C. 12 for --
- 13 A Yes. Well (inaudible). I am, in theory, 14 partially retired at this point. The reason I say 15 in theory, that's because some weeks I work a full 16 week, some weeks I don't work at all, but I was 17 working full time until April of '14, when I turned 18 65, and gave up my full-time position. And one of 19 my big clients is Mid-City Financial Corporation. 20 That's where I do asset management. I also own 21 properties for my own portfolio.
- 22 Q As part of your asset management for
- 1 Mid-City what are some of the responsibilities you
- 3 A Well, I don't officially have a title. We
- 4 just call me the owner's representative, but I sit
- 5 in on budget meetings, operational stuff.

have in that job?

- 6 Basically, I'm the in-house expert on operations and
- 7 property management that they have, and given my
- 8 experience and the fact that I operated their
- 9 portfolio, among others, for 14 years when I was
- 10 working at Edgewood full time. Mid-City Financial
- 11 Corporation and Edgewood Management Corporation are
- 12 owned by the same parent entity, so I will
- 13 occasionally refer to the two interchangeably
- 14 because Edgewood is the management operation and
- 15 Mid-City is the ownership operation.
- 16 Q When you say you're involved in the
- 17 operations, what does that consist of?
- 18 A Anything having to do with the operation of
- 19 the apartment communities that we own.
- 20 Q So is that the day-to-day logistics of
- 21 keeping the doors open and the grounds kept or is it
- 22 something else?

- 1 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 2 A No.
- MS. ODOM:
- 4 Q Go ahead.
- 5 A I don't do much in the way of day-to-day
- 6 operations anymore. When there's an issue or an
- 7 issue needs to be looked at, I'm the one who goes
- 8 and does it. If we're going to do major capital
- 9 work, I'm the one who hires the engineers, hires the
- 10 contractors, reviews the plans. I'm involved in the
- 11 annual budgeting processes. I'm involved in the
- 12 regulatory issues with the regulatory agencies. If
- 13 we need permits pulled for something, I'm the one
- 14 who goes and pulls the permits. So it's higher
- 15 level stuff. I stay out of -- I mean, we have
- 16 full-time management people. And when I retired, I
- 17 retired to let the folks that I spent the last 15
- 18 years training replace me and manage. So I do the
- 19 higher-end special projects and talk to them from
- 20 time to time, but I do not do day-to-day management

12

- 21 any longer.
- 22 Q Would you say that you're involved in the
- 1 creation or upkeep of any of the properties'
- 2 policies?

- 3 A In most cases I'm a reviewer of drafts when
- 4 we change them. There was a time, prior to my
- 5 retirement, that I was in charge of creating the
- 6 policies. Now I'm the reviewer of the policies.
- 7 Q What types of policies are those?
- 8 A Across the whole board, the entire policy
- 9 manuals that Edgewood uses, so that would be
- 10 policies on admissions, policies on tenant file
- 11 management, federal regulatory policies, bidding,
- in management, reactar regulatory poincies, or
- 12 management, contracting, you name it.
- 13 Q So at some point before your retirement in
- 14 2014 you had responsibility for overseeing and
- 15 helping to draft the admissions and tenant policies
- 16 for the Mid-City properties?
- 17 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 18 A Actually, my responsibilities were broader
- 19 than that. Mid-City is only one of the components.
- 20 Edgewood Management has a substantial book of
- 21 third-party management and I was the executive vice
- 22 president and chief knowledge officer. I was

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 4 (13 to 16)
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1 responsible for drafting and enforcing all policies

- 2 on the entire portfolio, which in those days ran
- 3 between 165 and 175 properties, around 30,000 units,
- 4 give or take. Properties are continuously coming in
- 5 and leaving a portfolio, as you might imagine.
- 6 MS. ODOM:
- Q Where did you first become employed with
- 8 Mid-City and Edgewood?
- 9 A August of 2002.
- 10 Q And has that been your primary form of
- 11 employment since 2002 up until your point of
- 12 retirement?
- 13 A That is my primary compensated form of
- 14 employment. Myself and my sisters are the
- 15 beneficiaries of and I am the manager of a series of
- 16 family trusts, where we manage our own family assets
- 17 that come from my parents and my grandparents.
- 18 Q Do those assets include residential
- 19 properties for rent or lease?
- 20 A They do. They include single-family
- 21 residential properties for rent and lease, and they
- 22 also include a major agricultural operation.
 - Q How many different residential complexes
- 2 would you say you've managed over your career?
- 3 A Without a lot of research it would be
- 4 difficult to say, but the number is very substantial
- 5 at this point. The reason I say that -- and I'll
- 6 just walk you quickly forward from the major
- 7 positions once I became an operational vice
- 8 president. I started in the business in Chicago. I
- 9 was at Harbor Realty and Management, which is an old
- 10 Chicago management firm. We managed a large
- 11 portfolio of properties on Lake Shore Drive. Then I
- 12 moved to the West Coast and went to work for
- 13 American Diversified, American Diversified Capital
- 14 Corporation. That's the largest corporation I've
- 15 ever worked for. They had -- during the period of
- 16 time I was there we had a shade more than 55,000
- 17 units in about 300 locations. After that I moved to
- 18 The Mitchell Company in Mobile, Alabama. We
- 19 operated principally in seven states in the
- 20 southeast, plus Louisiana and Texas. We were a
- 21 merchant builder, so the portfolio varied, but in
- 22 most cases it was somewhere in the range from 15 to

- 1 20,000 units. And then I went to Alco Properties in
- 2 Memphis. I had a shade more than 8,000 units there.
- 3 We owned virtually everything we managed. Then I
- 4 had my mid-career sabbatical as executive director
- 5 of the National Affordable Housing Management
- 6 Association, was there for six years in Washington
- 7 doing lobbying and policy work, and then went to
- 8 work for Edgewood in 2002. So over those 40 years
- 9 I've managed everything from high-end luxuries down
- 10 to assisted properties and pretty much everything in
- 11 between. There was one point in the mid '80s where
- 12 I managed the largest single-use residential rental
- 13 building in the world, which is Lake Point Tower in
- 14 Chicago. I also managed the largest assisted
- 15 property in Huron, South Dakota at a whopping -- I
- 16 still remember the number -- 23 units.
- 17 Q When you did lobbying and policy work in
- 18 Washington, D.C., what was the topic or focus of 19 that work?
- 20 A I was the executive director of the
- 21 National Affordable Housing Management Association.
- 22 It's a real estate trade organization, still exists

14

- 1 today. We worked with HUD, the Department of
- 2 Agriculture, the Department of Treasury, Congress,
- 3 and various administrations on a broad range of
- 4 affordable housing issues, taxation issues, and all
- 5 the sorts of things that one does if one is running
- 6 a real estate trade association.
- 7 Q Did any of your lobbying or policy work
- 8 involve the issue of undocumented immigrants in
- 9 housing?
- 10 A It certainly did.
- 11 Q In what way?
- 12 A When the late Representative Henry Hyde and
- 13 the now retired, but still alive, Representative
- 14 Elton Gallegly introduced the first citizenship
- 15 requirement bills in the early 1990s, we worked with
- 16 folks and lobbied. We weren't terribly in favor of
- 17 them, but Representative Hyde was not going to be 18 deterred.
- 19 Q You and your organization --
- 20 A And he had the votes.
- 21 Q I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you.
- 22 And your organization, you said, were not terribly

16

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 5 (17 to 20) Conducted on December 20, 2016

17 in favor of residency verification requirements?

MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, 2

mischaracterize. 3

We weren't necessarily in favor of the

legislation as written, particularly the parts that

would penalize owners if someone presented us with

7 fraudulent documents. We were not against the

8 residency requirements, per se. What we were

9 against was owners being held responsible for things

10 that they didn't have control over producing, and we

11 were deeply concerned that we have better ability to

12 verify documents.

MS. ODOM: 13

14 Q What is affordable housing?

15 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.

A Depending on who you are and what your 16 17 income level is, that's a very flexible definition.

18 Can you help me out with a little bit more 19 specificity?

MS. ODOM: 20

21 Q Sure. In the context of your lobbying and 22 policy work in D.C. you said it related to

1 affordable housing, and I wondered what, from your

2 perspective, that covered.

A It's principally all housing types that are 4 aimed at housing people at or below, roughly, 60

percent of area median income.

Q Did any of your policy or lobbying work

7 relate to federal subsidies or financing for low

income --

Yes. \mathbf{A}

10 Q -- tenants?

Yes. 11 \mathbf{A}

Q In what way? 12

A Well, much of the affordable housing stock

14 in this country is underpinned by FHA mortgages.

15 You know who FHA is. You know it's a federal

16 division. They're also underpinned by Freddie and

17 Fannie financing, and to some extent Freddie Mac

18 financing, so we worked with all those groups in

19 terms of financing. And, of course, if you're in

20 the affordable housing business, you have an

21 inherent interest in the rulemaking and rules that

22 HUD is proposing adopting that will impact how you 22 or they have written you a mortgage, you get with

1 operate the housing. And then, finally, in the deep

19

20

assistance sector, there's annual appropriations to

help support some of the costs of the

deeply-assisted portfolio.

Q Can you give me an estimate of, roughly,

what percentage of the properties you've managed

received federal funding or subsidy?

A Not without sitting down with portfolio

9 lists and research. Typically, in the period I was

10 with Edgewood, about 60 percent of our portfolio was

11 assisted and about 40 percent was not.

Q Are the operations for assisted residential

13 housing as opposed to non-assisted any different or

14 do they operate the same way?

15 A They operate in similar ways. If you're

16 using federal or state money, federal or state money

17 comes with strings and it comes with rules, so you

18 have more reporting and more regulations that you

19 have to deal with. The nature of the operation is

20 basically similar in both cases.

Q What are some of those strings that an

22 assisted entity would have to deal with?

A That's a very broad topic and we can spend

days on it.

18

1

3 O Well, let's --

A There is literally -- there's literally a

three-foot long section of the Code of Federal

Regulations called 24 CFR, chapter 24. It occupies

a bookshelf about that long (indicating).

THE WITNESS: For the recorder, I'm holding 8

my hands about three feet apart.

A And if you've been in this business as long

11 as I have, you've been inside those regulations for

12 years. And as I said, if they're writing you a

13 check, they have all kinds of regulations that you

14 have to comply with.

15 MS. ODOM:

16 Understood. 0

17 A (Inaudible.)

18 (At which time the court reporter requested

19 clarification regarding the answer.)

A If they're either writing you a check to

21 cover the cost of operations or they're writing --

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 6 (21 to 24)
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that regulations that you have to comply with.

- 2 Q So we'll come back with some specificity
- 3 later. I don't want to spend days on the
- 4 regulations and strings that may be attached to
- 5 federal funding or subsidies, but I did want to get
- 6 a sense of whether any of the properties that you've
- 7 managed over the years have included mobile home
- 8 properties or whether it's only been apartments?
- 9 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection.
- 10 A I have been --
- 11 THE WITNESS: Go ahead. I'm sorry.
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 13 MS. ODOM:
- 14 Q You can go ahead and answer.
- 15 A The short answer is I have done residential 16 rental and residential condominiums most of my 17 career. I have done a smattering -- and I use that 18 term very carefully -- a smattering of commercial 19 and retail spaces. I have not operated mobile home 20 parks directly.
- 21 Q For the properties that you have helped 22 manage in some capacity over the years, did they all

- 1 A Yup, because for Fair Housing reasons you
- 2 want to operate consistently. Otherwise, the FH&EO

23

24

- 3 Division of HUD will be on you. And if you manage
- 4 what I call a split company, which means you're
- 5 doing both conventional and assisted or affordable
- 6 management, you need to adopt one set of policies
- 7 and maintain them consistently.
- 8 Q Is the ratio of assisted to non-assisted
- 9 entities -- you said a moment ago it was about 60
- 10 percent received federal funding and about 40
- 11 percent didn't. Does that ratio hold true from the
- 12 1990s to the present or is it different?
- 13 A Without sitting down with the specific 14 property lists, I wouldn't be able to tell you.
- 15 Q Are you able to tell me whether entities 16 that don't receive federal or state housing subsidy 17 or funding also have a policy like the one in this 18 case?
- 19 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 20 A Some of my colleagues in this business that 21 are not doing deep assistance work have adopted very 22 similar policies, yes.

22

- 1 have a policy excluding undocumented immigrants from
- 2 tenancy?
- 3 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A I think there you have to be careful to specify when. The legislation that relates to that
- 6 didn't come into play until the early 1990s. It
- 7 wasn't an issue until the early 1990s. So in the
- 8 early stages of my career it wasn't an issue because
- 9 nobody seemed to care. When Congress passed a
- 10 series of bills and legislation related to it in the
- 11 early and middle '90s, and then visited those bills
- 12 again in the late '90s, it moved from being not on
- 13 your agenda to being on your agenda.
- 14 MS. ODOM:
- 15 Q So let's take the question from after
- 16 Congress passed that legislation in the early '90s
- 17 forward. For the properties that you've assisted in
- 18 managing since the 1990s to the present, has each of
- 19 those properties had a policy like the one at issue 20 in this case?
- 21 A Very similar to it, yes.
- 22 Q Every single property?

- MS. ODOM:
- Q But not all?
- 3 A I have to tell you I don't go around asking
- 4 everybody that when I talk to them.
- 5 Q But from your personal experience and
- 6 knowledge, are you able to say whether the
- 7 properties that you've had some involvement in all
- 8 have a policy that exclude undocumented immigrants
- 9 from tenancy whether or not they receive federal 10 funding?
- 11 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form, asked 12 and answered.
- 13 MS. ODOM:
- 14 Q You can go ahead and answer.
- 15 A I think I would stay with what I said
- 16 earlier, and that is for the most part, yes, but
- 17 without specifically looking at a property list and
- 18 looking at whether owners had a special set of
- 19 requirements, which some of them do, I can't tell
- 20 you with 100 percent certainty that every property
- 21 did. I can tell you that virtually everything we
- 22 had in the portfolio did.

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27 Q Do you know whether the Waples Mobile Home 1 speculation. 2 Park received any form of federal or state housing MS. ODOM: 3 finance or subsidy? 3 You can go ahead and answer if you A I'm unaware of their situation. understand the question. If not, I can restate it. Q Would that be an important piece of A I think you better try and nail it down a information for you to know in order to determine 6 little bit, because the other thing you're doing whether the policy at issue in this case was here is trying to divorce employment from leasing necessary? 8 activities, and you can't, because you're 9 underwriting against employment. A No, I don't think so. 10 Q Why not? 10 Q Well, I think I'd like to take it in two A When this legislation came into place, it 11 pieces, so I understand your opinion that for 12 was clear that the intent of Congress was to ensure 12 underwriting employment verification is important, 13 but I also understand your report to be offering a 13 that folks in residency should be in this country 14 appropriately. In addition, at the same time, and 14 second opinion, which is that in order for a

26

15 this is exceedingly important, as you know, laws 16 were enacted that employers are to ascertain the 17 legality of all employees. And if you don't know 18 the status of somebody, you can't underwrite them,

19 because if you have somebody that doesn't have 20 status, that means, by definition, they're not 21 working legally. It's difficult to underwrite it.

So we'll get to the employment verification

1 part of your opinions in a second, but I want to

- 2 finish up with you on the federal funding aspect
- 3 first. You said when Congress passed the
- 4 legislation in the early 1990s, it was clear their
- 5 intent was that landlords verify the residency of
- 6 their tenants, the legal status of their tenants.
- A Yes. Yeah.
- 8 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 9 MS. ODOM:
- Q So my question for you is do you believe 11 that's true whether or not a particular landlord
- 12 receives federal or state subsidies for housing?
- MR. DeBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 13
- A I'm not sure I understand precisely what 15 you're trying to get at.
- MS. ODOM: 16
- Q All right. I'll rephrase it. Is it your 18 opinion that the Congressional intent for what a 19 landlord has to verify about a prospective tenant, 20 is that the same whether or not that landlord is 21 receiving any type of government funding?
- 22 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form,

15 landlord to become eligible for federal or state

16 housing funding, they must verify that all tenants

17 are present in the United States legally. Do I have

18 your opinions correct?

MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.

20 A Yes, you have my views right on that. You 21 have to — in order to qualify for subsidy money 22 from the federal or state agencies, you have to be

1 in the country legally.

2 MS. ODOM:

3 Q Okay. So my question is if a landlord is

not applying for any subsidies and is not receiving

any sort of government funding, do they still have

to verify the presence of a tenant, that that tenant

is in the United States legally? If you take

funding out of it, what does the government got left

to say to you? 9

10 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.

A The government's still got left to say to

12 you you still have to underwrite it, so you run

13 around that issue. And, two, if you're running what

14 I'll call a mixed company, which means you're

15 running a management house that does both types of

16 management, you can't have an inconsistent set of

17 standards. Fair Housing will get on you about that.

18 So most of us that run mixed companies, we have one

19 set of standards whether the property is subsidized

20 or not. And we adopt the most restrictive standard,

21 which is the federal standard.

MS. ODOM: 22

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31 Q Would you agree with me that the landlord's underwriting of a lease; is that fair? 2 MR. DeBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. underwriting of a lease is a more local focus for a landlord? That is to say, that's something that the 3 A There's one limited circumstance where they landlord is concerned about, the risk of that lease, would be concerned with the underwriting of the and nobody else but the landlord is concerned about lease. If it – if someone filed a complaint that that? Would you agree that's a fair statement? 6 they were being treated disparately from other MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 7 applicants, in other words, file a Fair Housing A I'm trying to understand what you're trying 8 complaint, the government can come in and take a to get at. 9 look at how you do your underwriting, how you do MS. ODOM: 10 your admissions, and whether you're consistent in 10 Q Sure. Is the government concerned about 11 the application of the rules. I've had Fair Housing 12 the proper underwriting by a landlord of a 12 inquiries look at those. They literally come in, 13 prospective tenant's lease? 13 sit down, and go through the resident files. MS. ODOM: MR. DeBETTENCOURT: Objection, speculation. 14 14 15 15 A There will be instances where they would be Q But in the absence of such a complaint, the 16 landlord's underwriting is the landlord's business; 16 concerned, where you've got money borrowed from an 17 agency that's either insured by or cuts mortgages 17 is that right? 18 on, because they want to make sure that the terms of 18 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 19 the loan are being met, most particularly that the 19 A Yeah. 20 loan is getting paid. Now, that's a roundabout way 20 MS. ODOM: Q Is Waples Mobile Home Park in the 21 of getting to it, but you have to look at both 21 22 low-income housing business? 22 elements. You've got the financing element if 32 1 you've got somebody in the equation that's got, you 1 A Counsel hasn't shared with me precisely 2 know, government-related or government-insured what the target market is on that, so I'm not in a 3 financing, and then you have the operational position to really opine on that.

- 4 element.
- 5 MS. ODOM:
- Q Okay. If we have no loan, if there's no government loan or agency loan in the picture, is
- 8 the government concerned --
- 9 A Right.
- 10 Q -- about the quality of a landlord's
- 11 underwriting of a lease?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection.
- 13 A No, but the landlord would be.
- 14 MS. ODOM:
- 15 Q And only the landlord, correct?
- 16 A So it would seem.
- 17 Q So, really, there is -- there are two
- 18 pieces of your opinion. And I understand that you
- 19 want to take them in whole, but we have the federal
- 20 funding and subsidy part of your opinion, and then
- 21 we have the underwriting portion. And the
- 22 government doesn't concern itself with the

- 4 Q Would you have wanted to receive that
- 5 information for your opinions?
- 6 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection. To the extent
- 7 this question calls for communications from counsel,
- 8 I'm going to instruct you to answer -- instruct you
- 9 not to answer.
- 10 MS. ODOM:
- 11 Q And just to be clear, I'm not asking you
- 12 for anything that counsel at Reed Smith has told
- 13 you. I'm simply asking if you had all the
- 14 information available to you that you would have
- 15 wanted to have in an ideal world?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 17 A As the folks at Reed Smith --
- 18 THE WITNESS: Go ahead.
- 19 A As the folks at Reed Smith have indicated,
- 20 the only conversations I've had have been with the
- 21 lawyers.
- MS. ODOM:

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 9 (33 to 36) Conducted on December 20, 2016

		_	_
1 (Q	Did you ever request any other documents or	

- 2 information than were provided to you?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, privileged
- information. To the extent this question calls for
- communications between you and counsel, I'm going to
- instruct you not to answer.
- MS. ODOM:
- 8 Q Are you able to answer, Mr. Caruso?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: I'm instructing you not 10 to answer, Mr. Caruso.
- MS. ODOM: 11
- 12 Q Well, let me ask you this. Did you rely on
- 13 any materials besides your own experience in
- 14 creating your report and forming your opinions?
- 15 A No. Largely, my opinions were -- I was 16 asked to render my views as to how one might go 17 about operating this, in the abstract and that's 18 what I've done.
- 19 Q So to be clear, for example, you didn't 20 review any of the documents that were produced in 21 this case?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 22
- A The only document I've seen related to this
- case is my -- and you're going to have to help me
- with the name of the document -- the document my
- opinion was put in. What's that?
- MS. ODOM: 5
- Q Your expert report? 6
- A But it had a header on it. I don't
- remember what the header said.
- Q Yup, it's got a caption on it. I'm not 10 sure -- where is the camera located? You probably 11 can't see. I'll walk it over to you, so you can
- 12 see.
- 13 A No, I can't.
- Q All right, so --14
- A My eyesight is not that good. 15
- Q Let me -- all right, are you able to see
- 17 that, Mr. Caruso?
- MS. ODOM: For the record, I'm holding up
- 19 what's been marked as Exhibit 1, which is
- 20 Mr. Caruso's report.
- 21 Q Does that look --
- Yeah, there's that's the header page and 22

1 I think there's two pages that follow that label

35

36

Exhibit A.

- Q That's right. So I just want to be clear,
- that's the only document in this case that you've
- reviewed; is that right?
- A Yup.
- 7 And to make sure the record is clear on
- this, you are following Counsel's instruction not to
- answer whether you asked for any other documents to 10 review?
- 11 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, asked and 12 answered, privileged information.
- I'm instructing you not to answer. 13
- MS. ODOM: I'm simply asking the witness to 14
- 15 state for the record whether he's following Counsel's
- 16 instruction not to answer whether he asked for any
- 17 other documents. That does not call for privileged 18 information.
- 19 MR. DeBETTENCOURT: You can answer that 20 question.
- 21 MS. ODOM:
- 22 Would you like me to restate it,
- 1 Mr. Caruso?
- Yeah, that would be helpful.
- Sure. No problem. So I was just asking
- you to confirm for the record that you're following
- 5 Counsel's instruction not to answer as to whether
- 6 you asked to see any other documents in this case.
- 7 A I am following Counsel's instruction.
- 8 Q Have you ever come into contact or become
- aware of undocumented immigrants at the Mid-City and 10 Edgewood properties?
- 11 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 12 A Yes.
- MS. ODOM: 13
- 14 Q How many times?
- 15 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection.
- A I can't give you a precise number, and only 16
- 17 very occasionally. And I would only see it after an
- 18 issue had revealed itself and we were in the process 19 of removing those folks from residence.
- 20 MS. ODOM:
- 21 Would it be less than ten times? Q
- 22 I can't give you a precise number, but it's

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP

Conducted on December 20, 2016

39 1 probably less than -- less than a couple cases a 1 emerged that his income was fraudulently 2 year. understated, and he was current on what we thought 3 Since 2002? 3 he was making. Q Yeah. Q Is it possible for a citizen or O Let's take the most recent case. What was fully-documented immigrant to fraudulently the circumstance in which that situation revealed understate their income on a lease application? itself to you? 7 A Yes. MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. Can you tell me some of the residential 9 landlords in northern Virginia and D.C. that you A The last case I recall, we, in the process 10 of reacting to a visit -- I use that term 10 consider to be well-managed? 11 advisably -- by the U.S. Attorneys for the District A Well, clearly, I would consider my firm to 12 of Columbia to do -- perform an arrest in an 12 be well-managed. 13 apartment, it became revealed that some of the Q Aside from your own? 14 14 documents that had been provided to us were Huh? 15 forgeries, and we ultimately ended up removing those 15 O Aside from your own, are there any that you 16 people. One of the people had already been arrested 16 can think of? 17 and we ended up removing the household as a A I have colleagues that post properties. I 18 consequence of it because they gave us forged 18 consider their stuff to be very well-managed. I 19 documents. 19 have colleagues at Equity Residential. I consider MS. ODOM: 20 their stuff to be very well-managed. I have friends 20 Q Did the forged documents include a Social 21 at PRD. I consider their stuff to be very 22 Security card? 22 well-managed. I have some friends at Aimco. I 38 40 A I can't remember with precision what all in 1 consider their stuff to be well-managed. I can go the jacket was forged, but there were forgeries in on. I have a lot of friends, but I know a number of 3 the file. 3 firms that are well-managed in the District and in Q Did these tenants that we're speaking about northern Virginia, and in Maryland, and the other cause any disturbance at the property or was the 5 places where they operate. 6 legal issue one that had arisen outside the confines Q Do each of the properties that you just of the property? mentioned have a policy similar to Waples that MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. excludes undocumented immigrants from tenancy? 9 A As I recall, and it's a little fuzzy, one MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 10 of the tenants was picked up on a drug offense, and A I haven't done specific polling with them, 11 I don't remember whether the offense was on the 11 but to the extent that those firms I just mentioned 12 property or abutting it. 12 have deep assistance jobs, they obviously do,

13 MS. ODOM:

14 Q Did Mid-City receive any complaints from 15 other tenants about this individual?

16 A I don't recall my staff mentioning anything 17 to me. Obviously, when somebody raids one of your 18 properties, you know about it, and a lot of 19 residents get very concerned.

20 Q Had this tenant been current on his rent 21 payments?

22 A To the best of my knowledge, yes, but it

19 and not complying with the rules.
20 Q So the threat of regulatory intervention,
21 you believe, is an incentive to have a policy like

13 because they comply with the rules just like we do.

A Because if you want to be in the deep

17 assistance management business, HUD can lift your

18 authority to manage if you're not managing correctly

MS. ODOM:

Q How do you know that?

22 this?

14

11 (41 to 44) Conducted on December 20, 2016 43

- A Well, that's one of the incentives. The
- 2 threat of civil money penalties against you as an
- 3 individual or an executive of the firm is another,
- 4 and there's a whole string of other things that --
- 5 I've been a senior executive for many years and I've
- 6 had to sign a lot of management certifications and a
- 7 lot of contracts and a lot of other documents, and
- 8 the term we use inside the house is -- whenever I
- 9 sign them, one of my subordinates comes in, I say to
- 10 them, looking at them like I'm looking at you, okay,
- 11 I'm betting my career here, is everything right.
- Q So what about landlords or residential
- 13 property management companies that aren't in the
- 14 deep assistance business, as you've called it? Do
- 15 they have the same fear of regulatory intervention 16 and civil monetary penalties?
- A Without -- you're going to need to narrow 18 that question and you're going to need to either 19 include or exclude mortgage financing from that.
- Q All right, let's exclude mortgage financing 21 and --
- 22 Meaning you don't have any mortgage money

- A Not knowing precisely how they lease their
- lots, I can't answer that. I've never seen a lot
- lease. I don't know what their restrictions are or
- are not. I don't know how they structure their
- deals.
- MS. ODOM:
 - Q Do you think that's information that would
- be relevant to the opinions in your report?
- A Not particularly, no. If you're going to 9
- 10 comply with the Fair Housing rules and you're going
- 11 to operate in what I regard as a fully-professional
- 12 manner, the nature of the financing package on the
- 13 item sitting on the ground lease is not necessarily 14 all that relevant.
- (At which time the court reporter requested 16 clarification regarding the answer.)
- Q Except to the extent that it may imbue some 18 regulatory risk on the landlord; is that right?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A Again, not having seen the documents and 20 21 not knowing how they do the ground lease, I don't 22 know.

44

1

- To the landlord. So to the extent --

1 from any federal or state agency?

- 3 A Right.
- Q -- a tenant has received a mortgage, that's
- a private mortgage between the tenant and the
- mortgagor.
- A Right, but a tenant with a mortgage
- 8 wouldn't be living in a rental property, I wouldn't
- 9 think.
- Q Well, are you familiar with the way that
- 11 the Waples' leases work?
- A You mean -- you're talking specifically --
- 13 you're going to have to narrow that down for me. I
- 14 think you're talking about where -- in a mobile home
- 15 community you're essentially engaging in a ground
- 16 lease. And the item -- just like you would in a
- 17 commercial situation, and the item sitting on top of
- 18 it can be separately mortgaged. Is that the
- 19 differentiation you're making?
- Q Well, is that your understanding of the way
- 21 the Waples community operates?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 22

- MS. ODOM:
 - Q Well, to get us back to how we got down
- this path, what we were discussing is whether a
- community like Waples is the same as one like Aimco
- or Mid-City or Edgewood, that's what you've called a
- deep assistance management group.
- A Mm-hmm.
- 8 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection,
- 9 mischaracterize.
- 10 MS. ODOM:
- Q And my question for you in the beginning
- 12 was whether Waples is differently situated from
- 13 those entities? Is it your opinion that Waples is
- 14 situated the same as an entity like Mid-City?
- 15 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A If you're asking me -- if you're asking me
- 17 whether I would operate them differently than I
- 18 operate other stuff, I maintain a consistent
- 19 approach and recommend to my folks that they
- 20 maintain a consistent approach, and that is we do
- 21 the same thing the same way everywhere.
- 22 MS. ODOM:

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP

12 (45 to 48)

Conducted on December 20, 2016

47 government funding in the way that we've been Q And that's because of the Fair Housing talking about. rules? 2 A Mm-hmm. (No verbal response.) 3 3 \mathbf{A} But you also mentioned that you are -- I Using that assumption, does Waples have less of a regulatory risk or concern than an entity say you, meaning Mid-City and Edgewood, are what you like Mid-City? phrased as a deep assistance manager? 7 A Mm-hmm. MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 8 MS. ODOM: Q Can you explain for me what that means? MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 9 You can answer. A One more time, not knowing how the upper 10 MS. ODOM: 10 Q You can go ahead and answer. 11 tiers look, and what other assets, or inside Waples 11 12 ownership entity going up, these deals tend to be A A deep assistance situation is where some 13 very complexly structured, as I've said before, and 13 subdivision of either a state -- the state or 14 I'll keep saying it, I always felt it necessary to 14 federal government is writing a check on a monthly 15 basis to cover part of the costs of the operation of 15 follow Congressional intent, maintaining a 16 the community. So deep assistance is a situation 16 consistent policy whether or not there's federal 17 where the tenant payment is not 100 percent of the 17 funding present. Doing it one way and doing it that 18 cost of operating a community. 18 way consistently inside the context of the rules has 19 always been how I've operated. Q And because an entity like Aimco or 20 Mid-City or Edgewood is receiving that check to Q So you said something a second ago I want 21 to go back to. You said these things are structured 21 cover their costs --22 in a complex way. My question is if an entity has a Mm-hmm. 22 46 48 Q -- of operation, that generates a 1 managing entity, and then it may have several regulatory risk from HUD; is that correct? different properties beneath that umbrella --MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 3 3 A Mm-hmm. A In point of fact, you sign a document Q -- is something that happens at one called a Regulatory Agreement in order to get the property, in terms of deep assistance, relevant to payments, so, yes, you have a contractual what happens at a different property that doesn't arrangement with the federal government or with the receive deep assistance? MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. state agency. 9 9 MS. ODOM: A There's a term of art that HUD uses called Q And that contractual agreement is part of 10 misallocation of assets and equity skimming. And if 11 the motivation to ensure that the policies at that 11 you're doing something one place that you shouldn't 12 residential complex comply in all ways with federal 12 be doing the other, and it impacts where money is 13 requirements? 13 going, yes, it can involve it. 14 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 14 MS. ODOM: 15 A That is correct. Q Okay. But assuming there's no MS. ODOM: 16 misallocation of funds in the way that you 16 Q So my question for you is whether Waples 17 described, that one complex of units receives 18 receives deep assistance, whether it receives any 18 federal funding and one complex of units does not, 19 check from the government? 19 even though they're managed under the same umbrella, 20 A I can't answer that. I don't know. 20 is the fact that one of those entities receives Q So I'd like you to assume that the answer 21 federal funding relevant at all to the policies of

22 the non-funded entity?

22 is no, that Waples doesn't receive any sort of

PageID# 5938 Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 13 (49 to 52) Conducted on December 20, 2016 51 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection. 1 they are required to provide with their application at Waples? A To the extent it can get you in a suit with 3 FH&EO if there was a Fair Housing complaint, yes, 3 A I've not seen the list. I don't know. 4 because, again, they come in and the first thing 4 Do you know the defendants in that --5 they look for is is your pattern and practice A Can you guys do me a favor a second? Q Sure. 6 consistent, do you do the same thing in the same way everywhere, and is everyone required to meet the A Could you kill the microphone that's down 8 by that keyboard? It's making me crazy. same rules. It is off, but --MS. ODOM: 9 10 A Thank you. 10 Q Are you aware of what requirements a 11 prospective tenant must meet at the Waples Mobile You know what, I'm so sorry, Mr. Caruso, I 12 don't think we're able to mute this one, but we're 12 Home Park in order to be accepted as a tenant? 13 going to move it so that you don't have to listen to A I have not seen their tenant selection plan 14 it.

14 and their policies on an individual basis.

Q Are you able to describe the policy that's 16 being challenged in this case?

A I think you could probably describe it much 18 better than I could.

O Well, I'd like for you to take a crack at 20 it for me. Are you able to describe the policy 21 that's been challenged in this litigation?

A As I understand it, the key question here

1 is the owners and operators of Waples are being

1 this at the outset, but if you get where you'd like

3

6

22

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16

 \mathbf{A}

2 challenged over their requirement that everyone that 3 is an adult leaseholder has to be in this country

4 legally. Now, whether that means they are a citizen

5 or resident alien or some other form of legal

6 residence in the country, they have to be here

7 legally.

Q Do you know what documents the Waples'

9 policy requires a prospective tenant to provide?

10 A I have not seen a complete list of the

11 documents that they have to provide. And depending

12 on one's situation, that document list is going to

13 be widely variable.

14 Q You said you hadn't seen a complete list.

15 Have you seen a partial list?

16 A My understanding, and it's only oral, is

17 that they have to be here legally. I don't know how

18 exactly that lays out in the policy and tenant

19 selection plan. I've not seen the tenant selection 20 plan.

21 Q For a prospective tenant that does not have

22 a Social Security number, do you know what documents

This may make me extra loud, a downside.

A Yeah, because all I'm hearing is this 19 clickety, clickety, click, and it just -

20 I know you gotta make notes. I get that part. I

Anything we can do. And I meant to say

to take a break, just let me know and we'll take

one.

21 just...

Q

4 A I'll raise my hand just like you do in

5 first grade (indicating).

Q A-plus, there you go.

That's good.

17 And I meant to say this at --

7 Okay.

All right. Do you know what the 8

9 defendants' reasons are for having this policy? And

10 when I say defendants, I mean the A.J. Dwoskin

11 company and Waples Mobile Home Park.

A I think it's a general proposition, they

13 want to make sure when they're underwriting folks,

14 that they have a reasonable assurance that the rent

15 is going to get paid. And in order to have a

16 reasonable assurance the rent is going to get paid,

17 that generally means somebody is going to have to

18 have a job. And we've been around that bush

19 already. And, again, you know, as we've said 20 before --

21 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Mr. Caruso --

-- package of things --22

14 (53 to 56) Conducted on December 20, 2016 55

11

MR. DeBETTENCOURT: -- sorry to interrupt.

- 2 THE WITNESS: Go ahead.
- 3 MR. deBETTENCOURT: To the extent this
- question calls for communications with counsel, I'm
- going to instruct you not to answer. If you're able
- to answer without relying on communications with
- counsel, you can answer the question.
- A Well, since all of my information has come through counsel, then I guess we're done.
- MS. ODOM: 10
- Don't get excited just yet. Can you tell 11 O
- 12 me --
- 13 A No, with that question. Not that we're
- 14 done completely, just we're done with that question.
- Do you know what an ITIN is?
- A I've seen it. 16
- 17 Q Seen an ITIN?
- A A blank of an ITIN. And I've probably seen 19 filled-out ITINs at some point or another.
- Q Do you know what an ITIN does for a person,
- 21 what effect it has?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 22
- A Effectively, as I get it, what that enables
- the federal government to do is get their payroll 3 taxes.
- 4 MS. ODOM:
- 5 Q How does somebody get an ITIN?
- A You register and get one and they give you an ID number to submit your taxes.
- Q How about a U.S. visa, what does that
- enable a person to do?
- 10 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A Depends on the visa. In the case of most 12 visas, you're going to have to actually look at the 13 visa document. In many instances it will either 14 allow work or not allow work. Lots of visas are 15 time limited. There's different types of visas. I 16 mean, you're - you know, you're dealing with an 17 area that, particularly when you get to immigration 17 18 laws, is exceedingly complex. You could see all 19 kinds of forms.
- 20 MS. ODOM:
- 21 Q Do you have any experience with U.S. visas
- 22 or ITINs or I-94 forms?

- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A Well, since we're not in the business of 2
- housing anybody that's not here legally, while ITINs
- may exist for some of our residents, the ones we're
- more interested in is verifying their employment,
- making sure that they're in the system, and we know
- that they're in residence legally. I mean,
- everything we do in terms of processing these
- documents drives to are they here legally, are they
- 10 working legally.

MS. ODOM:

- Q Does Mid-City and Edgewood accept ITINs as 12
- 13 part of an application for a tenant?
- A Somebody could hand one of them to us, but
- 15 the thing we'd be interested in is we want to see,
- 16 and I'm going to use a generic term here, we want to
- 17 see the Green Card. As you know, Green Cards are
- 18 not even green anymore, and you also know that Green
- 19 Cards covers a broad range of documents. We want to
- 20 see the documents related to are they here legally
- 21 and we want to know where their work is, we want to
- 22 know that they're employed in an appropriate way.

- 54
- Q If a prospective tenant at Mid-City or
- Edgewood presents a Green Card as part of the
- 3 application process --
- A Mm-hmm.
- 5 Q -- is there any sort of enhanced diligence
- to verify their employment?
- A We have a whole package of things, and
- 8 employment will have to be verified, incomes have to
- be verified, and we have to have third-party
- 10 documentation, yes.
- Q What sort of third-party documentation?
- 12 A Typically, we get third-party documentation
- 13 from the employer or from an agency that works for
- 14 the employer. Some large employers now outsource
- 15 that to companies that provide documentation, as you
- 16 may be aware.
- Q Is that documentation like pay stubs or
- 18 verifications of employment or what does that
- 19 consist of?
- 20 A Pay stubs is going to be a last resort only
- 21 if we don't have anything else and we're going to do
- 22 fact checking based on it. Typically, what we are

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 15 (57 to 60)

Conducted on December 20, 2016 59 1 looking for is when we put it into the system, we're Q And I want to understand why you think 2 going to want to see a written confirmation of 2 3 employment from the employer as to wages and as to 3 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 4 tenure in that position. The form of that will A Fairly simple answer, and that is, as you vary, but that's what we're looking for. know, under the provisions of the change in the laws Q And in your experience, is that customary a few years back, you fill out an I-9. It has to be across residential management companies? verified and you have to be here either through I-9 or E-Verify. And in order to work legally in this A Yes. 9 country you gotta be here legally. Q Will Mid-City and Edgewood accept a foreign 10 passport as proof of identity in the application 10 MS. ODOM: 11 process? 11 Q What is E-Verify? 12 A If it has the appropriate visas, with the 12 A E-Verify is the electronic system that CIS 13 appropriate work permits, and we can verify it. Or, 13 stood up to be a faster turnaround to the I-9 14 and I use this term because it's not related to what 14 system. You can do it using E-Verify when you hire 15 we do here and I'll just mention it in passing -- I 15 somebody now. It's an electronic system. You set 16 have over the years leased apartments on a regular 16 up an account. We've been using E-Verify for, I 17 basis to foreign nationals who are here at the 17 don't know, four or five years. It's just a lot 18 forbearance of the Department of State, in other 18 faster than the old I-9 paper systems. 19 words, they're diplomats, and we handle diplomats in Q Is every employer required to participate 20 a different way. 20 in E-Verify? 21 Q Because they come with the imprimatur of MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, speculation. 22 the Department of State? 22 MS. ODOM: 58 60 A Well, that's number one, and you also --Q You can go ahead and answer. 1 2 because they enjoy diplomatic immunity, there's a You're required to do one or the other, 3 lot of other things you have to do to assure oneself meaning you have to do it through the I-9 system or 4 that you're going to get paid. You can't walk into you have to do it through E-Verify. E-Verify is not 5 a landlord-tenant court and throw out a diplomat for 5 absolutely mandated, but almost everybody I know is not paying the rent. It doesn't happen. moving towards it because it just makes life easier. Q I can imagine the logistical hurdles Q And this applies to every employer, whether 8 involved. Does the U.S. government accept foreign 8 it's private or government or whether the employee passports as proof of identity for foreign is being hired as a, you know, private contractor, 10 nationals? 10 for example?

11 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, speculation.

A I really don't have the means to answer

- 13 that one way or the other. MS. ODOM: All right, let's take a quick 14
- 15 break.
- 16 (Off the record.)
- 17 BY MS. ODOM:
- Q So I want to move on to talking about the 19 underwriting of leases. We mentioned it earlier, 20 and in your report you write that legal status is an 21 important factor in underwriting a particular lease.
- 22 Mm-hmm.

- 11 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A Well, you gotta be careful there. If 13 you're hiring a contractor, you're, by definition, 14 or you'll get in trouble with Labor, not hiring an 15 employee. You know there is a differentiation 16 between the two? You've gotta be very careful about 17 that.
- 18 MS. ODOM:
- Q I am aware of the difference. And my 20 question for you is if someone is being brought on 21 as a contractor, does their employer have to go 22 through the I-9 or E-Verify process?

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 16 (61 to 64)

Conducted on December 20, 2016 61 63 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection. 1 verification systems they're going to use. It's not A Last time I looked, if you're hiring 2 exclusively to approve it. somebody and you're paying them, you've gotta verify Q I'm not sure I understood that answer. So that they're legal to work. if a landlord, such as Mid-City --MS. ODOM: 5 Mm-hmm. Q Does an individual need to have a Social 6 Q -- gets a Social Security number on an Security number in order to fill out an I-9? application, is that taken as an indication that the A There's a big box on the front side of the applicant is able to work legally in the United 9 I-9 and that's what you gotta have in order to make 9 States? 10 it work in the system. 10 A Well, that's where the process starts. Q A big box containing what? 11 That's where we do the rest of the background checks 12 A A Social Security number (indicating). 12 and the other stuff that goes with it. O If someone doesn't -- I didn't mean to Q Is it the case that individuals without a 14 interrupt you. I'm so sorry. Go ahead. 14 Social Security number are still able to work 15 A For E-Verify you absolutely have to have 15 legally in the United States? 16 one. For the I-9 system, you've gotta get one or MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, speculation. 16 17 you're going to have to determine what their Social A I haven't been that deep into those regs in 18 Security number is, so you can get the rest of the 18 a while. I just simply -- I'm not going to try to 19 verifications. There are means of alternate -- and 19 give you a guess on that, because that's what it 20 I'm not going to go into it here because I don't 20 would be. I'd have to go look it up. 21 study it day-to-day -- there are alternate means to 21 MS. ODOM: 22 verify, but it all drills against are they here But in your experience, you can't recall a 22 62 64 1 legally. 1 situation where an individual was legally empowered to work in the United States, but did not have a Q So if someone doesn't have a Social Security number, they may still be able to complete Social Security number? an I-9? MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 5 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 5 A Yes, I have. Those have been the diplomats A I suppose. I'm not sure. Since I use only I mentioned earlier. 7 exclusively E-Verify, and you gotta have it to have MS. ODOM: 8 that system work, I don't know how the manual system 8 Q Aside from the diplomats?

works. I'm not current on it. I haven't used it in 10 several years.

11 MS. ODOM:

Q Does the fact that an individual has a

13 Social Security number prove that they have legal

14 status to work in the United States?

15 A Let me answer that by saying yes, we have 16 run across fraudulent Social Security numbers.

17 Q So I don't think that quite answered my 18 question. My question is whether if a person 19 possesses a Social Security number, does that 20 demonstrate to a landlord that that individual has a 21 legal status to work? A It's an indicator in the rest of the

19 rare. 20 Q Have you ever encountered anyone, outside

21 those contexts of diplomacy or military training,

22 where an individual did not have a Social Security

A I've also had military attachés and

10 military officers training at the naval base in

11 Pensacola that, again, did not have, but we had the

12 documentation from the country from which they were,

13 where they were citizens, that they were legal to

14 reside in our apartments while they were attending

15 flight school in Pensacola. So, yeah, there are

16 some situations you'll see where you've got foreign

17 nationals training at U.S. military facilities or

18 diplomats or other special situations. They're very

PLANET DEPOS

17 (65 to 68) Conducted on December 20, 2016

number, but they were still able to work and be employed in the United States?

MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 3

A Not that I can recall.

MS. ODOM:

5

Q Have you ever looked it up or seen any studies or articles about that?

MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection.

A Well, as a manner in policy

10 wonk (phonetic), I'm sure I have, but at this moment

- 11 I can't remember which visas. I spent a lot of time
- 12 working with those issues when those proposals were
- 13 first brought up in the early '90s. There was a lot
- 14 of ground that had to be plowed before those bills 15 became law.
- MS. ODOM: 16
- Q What is your basis for the statement in 18 your report that, and I quote, any applicant who 19 does not have legal status to work will be unable to 20 obtain employment that can be verified as to
- 21 duration and amount to permit underwriting? A Well, it's actually pretty simple. If

A In the assisted arena if you have someone

- who is materially misstating their income on the
- downside, meaning understated their income, there

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- are rules and procedures as to how you give them to
- the HUD Inspector General or the Department of
- 6 Justice, because they want a referral on them. And
- most years towards the end of my career we were
- doing 15 or 20 referrals a year. There's a whole
- 9 process when you discover someone has misstated
- 10 things, particularly in assisted, where you have a
- 11 meeting, there's a whole due process system laid
- 12 out, and you go through what's essentially an
- 13 administrative review, and then act based on that.
- 14 And there are requirements that folks that have
- 15 materially -- and the threshold is fairly high.
- 16 It's about \$10,000 a year of misstatement -- but 17 you're required to make a referral.
- Q How many of those referrals on an annual 19 basis would be for individuals who were foreign 20 nationals or immigrants?
- A Comparatively, few. Matter of fact, off 22 the top of my head, I can't remember any in the last

1 you're working for somebody that's breaking the law

- by employing them, how do you know that anything
- else they're going to tell you is the truth.
- Q I'm not sure I understand that answer. Are
- you suggesting that if an employer employs an
- undocumented immigrant, they may also misrepresent
- that individual's wages or duration of employment?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 9 A Yeah.
- 10 MS. ODOM:
- Q Have you ever had that happen, in your 11 12 experience?
- 13 A What, where employers have lied to me? 14 Yes.
- 15 Q How many times has that happened?
- In these days, electronic verification and
- 17 backup checking on stuff, it's more rare than it
- 18 once was, but it still happens with some regularity,
- 19 where we'll get something that, as we're doing the 20 underwriting, we find doesn't add up.
- Q How many instances would you say over the 22 last ten years that has happened?

couple of years.

5

- Q So employer misstatements are typically
- about citizens of the United States as opposed to
- immigrants or foreign nationals, in your experience?
 - MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
 - A I can't say I have a scientifically
- developed view of the statistics on it, but either
- collusion, where an employer lies to us, on either
- the high side or the low side because they're trying
- 10 to help somebody out, or where you've got deep
- 11 assistance programs and somebody is deliberately
- 12 misstating their income on the low side, which is a
- 13 federal offense, you know, those situations, in most
- 14 cases, you're going to be dealing with somebody
- 15 that's here legally. As I mentioned earlier on in
- 16 this process today, we did have a raid, it did
- 17 emerge that somebody was here on forged documents.
- 18 They looked, at first impression, like they were
- 19 legitimate. They turned out not to be.
- 20 MS. ODOM:
- Q How did it come to your attention that the
- 22 documents were forged?

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP

18 (69 to 72)

Conducted on December 20, 2016

Conducted on December 20, 2016 71 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. Q When you said you've seen some --1 2 THE WITNESS: Guys? A When my site manager had a conversation 2 with the Assistant U.S. Attorney and they were 3 MS. ODOM: I'm sorry, please go ahead. starting to work the case up after the raid. 4 THE WITNESS: We need a quick break. This is my sister on the phone. She doesn't normally call 5 MS. ODOM: me. I'm going to step out. I'll be right back. Q In your experience, is there any way to 7 (Off the record.) assess whether a document is a forgery, short of talking to the DOJ, for example? 8 BY MS. ODOM: MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection. 9 Q So before we took the brief break we were A Well, most of the documents that we see in 10 talking about the need to verify someone's sustained 10 11 legitimate employment as part of the underwriting of 11 application processes in recent years have been 12 a lease. 12 moved to more secure forms of documentation, meaning 13 that if you know what you're looking at, it's A Mm-hmm. 13 14 tougher to misrepresent a document than it used to Q Would an alternative be to verify whether 15 be. But I have occasionally seen some mighty good 15 an applicant has reserved funds sufficient to cover 16 forgeries. 16 the rental amounts for the lease period as opposed 17 MS. ODOM: 17 to employment? 18 Q So how have the document verification 18 A Well, in some cases you will be dealing 19 processes changed to make it more difficult to pass 19 with someone that's either living off assets or has 20 off a forgery? Can you give me some specifics on 20 transfer payments or things like that, yes, 21 that? 21 particularly when you're dealing with a senior 22 citizen that's no longer working, but, again, 22 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection. 70 72 A Well, I guess the first specific is if you 1 there's ways to verify those sources as well. Q And would a person's legal status in the 2 reach into your purse and get out your driver's 3 license, it looks a lot different than the driver's United States necessarily be relevant to whether 4 licenses we got when I first started driving 50 they had reserved funds or assets available to pay 5 years ago. Mine didn't have a picture on it. It the rental amounts? 6 didn't have a piece of paper. I'll just give you 6 A Help me out. I'm trying to understand what 7 one illustration. This is not directly relevant, you're asking here. 8 but I'm getting close. That's my NEXUS card from 8 O Sure. So if the person's legal status is 9 Customs (indicating). It has four or five, on each 9 relevant to whether they can get employment and 10 side, infrared, readable security features and all 10 that's part of --11 kind of other stuff, including this goofy little A Mm-hmm. 12 globe and all that other stuff. I mean, a lot of 12 Q -- the risk assessment for a potential 13 the documents you see now are higher security. If 13 lease, my question is --14 you have a passport, you've probably seen the recent 14 A Mm-hmm. 15 ones, and higher security now with an electronic -- do we still care, in underwriting a 15 16 chip in them. So, you know, the documents we see 16 lease, if the person is legally present in the 17 are higher security than they used to be. The one 17 United States if they've been able to demonstrate 18 the funds available to pay the rental amounts for 18 that still is the lowest security on the planet, as

19 the lease?

20 A You run into the conundrum of if you don't

21 underwrite every lease exactly the same way and

22 verify the same things, you have the Fair Housing

19 near as I can ascertain, is the Social Security card

20 because it's still printed on paper and it doesn't

21 have any security features to it.

MS. ODOM:

19 (73 to 76)

Conducted on December 20, 2016 75 exposure. 1 we come up with of those, and that's where Social Q And what statute would that be? 2 Security numbers and dates of birth become really 3 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. important, because you can get multiple people with A I don't carry it around, but you've got the same name and they'll pop up, and you have to go the -- I mean, you have three major Fair Housing isolate whether it's the person that you're looking Acts and you have enough implementation language on at is the right person. that, on the HUD side, that it literally fills Q So is a Social Security number used to pull 8 books, but the key thing that I've emphasized up an individual on a sex offender registry or to 9 throughout here, and will continue to emphasize, is pull up some sort of criminal file? 10 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, compound. 10 that you've got to underwrite every application 11 using the same methodology all the time. In other A Depends on the state, depends on the 12 words, you determine what your steps are to 12 locality, depends how they design the database. 13 MS. ODOM: 13 underwrite it, you follow the steps, you verify 14 things in regard to those steps. You literally step Q Are you familiar with the Yardi company? 14 15 through the process the same way for every 15 A I am. 16 applicant. Now, sources of income will vary, but Q How are you familiar with Yardi? 16 17 you follow the process consistently for every A For several years, for one of our big 17 18 applicant. 18 owners, we used the Yardi product suite. 19 Q Was that Mid-City or Edgewood? MS. ODOM: Q Is a Social Security number required to A It was Edgewood. 20 21 verify the identity of a prospective applicant? Does Edgewood still use Yardi? 21 A It's one of the pieces of information A We don't have those buildings anymore. We 74 1 you're generally going to use. You'll generally be 1 were doing work for our colleagues at a major super 2 using date of birth as well, because most of the regional bank, that I'd prefer not to identify, and 3 commercial databases that we use to do verifications they took back a portfolio of 15 properties, and 4 are going to trigger off of those two items. And if this particular bank used -- Yardi also does banking 5 you get a false positive, those are the two items and financial industry back-office software. Do you 6 that you start looking at to determine why you might 6 understand what I mean by that? have a false positive. O I do. Q Are there other pieces of information that Okay. Yardi has a suite of back office and could be used? this particular client wanted us to use Yardi on the A Well, typically, you're also going to use 10 front end because it uploaded to their back office 11 the last -- depending on their tenure, most of the 11 more easily. 12 commercial systems that I'm aware of that we use to Q Does Mid-City and Edgewood currently use an 13 entity like Yardi to perform background checks on 13 do our verifications, are going to look at the last 14 somewhere between five and seven years worth of 14 prospective tenants? 15 residences, and they're going to look at the credit A At this point we use exclusively RealPage 16 files, and the credit files are going to show names, 16 software. We don't use -- RealPage is one of 17 addresses, residences, positions, and what have you 17 Yardi's competitors. 18 in them, so it's all part of a blend. And then, 18 Q Are you familiar with CoreLogic? 19 A I've heard the name. Beyond that, I'm not. 19 finally, when you get to the last piece, which is

20

22

Does RealPage require a Social Security

Bearing in mind it's been a couple of years

21 number to run a criminal background check?

20 checking on your criminal history and the sex

21 offender registries, you're going to need those

22 because you'd be surprised how many false positives

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP

20 (77 to 80)

Conducted on December 20, 2016

1 since I've been inside that program, last time I

- 2 looked that's one of the designators that's built
- 3 into it, because it picks it up off of the
- 4 applications automatically.
- 5 Q My question is a little bit different. The
- 6 question was whether a Social Security number is
- 7 required to be input for the program to run?
- 8 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 9 A Remember, you get to customize the user 10 interface with all these software programs, and our
- 11 interface was customized so that it did require a
- 12 Social Security number.
- MS. ODOM:
- 14 Q Do you have any opinion on whether Yardi is 15 a good quality company?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 17 A I have friends who are either still senior 18 executives there or recently-retired senior 19 executives there and I hold them in very high 20 regard. It's a quality company run by quality 21 people.
- 22 MS. ODOM:
- Q Is a Social Security number able to reveal
- 2 an applicant's past five to seven years of
- 3 residences?
- 4 A You're going to need to help me out what
- 5 you're going for there because the Social Security
- 6 number and underwriting leasing systems I'm familiar
- 7 with is only one piece of the database you feed to
- 8 it as it goes out and does its lookup.
- 9 Q Okay, so my question is -- you mentioned as 10 part of the verification of a tenant's identity in
- 11 underwriting the lease --
- 12 A Right, right.
- 13 Q -- you get their Social Security number,
- 14 you get their date of birth, and you said you also
- 15 look at their past five to seven years of
- 16 residences; is that right?
- 17 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 18 A We will ask them what their most recent
- 19 three residences have been, because we're going to
- 20 want to pick that up and compare it. Again, all of
- 21 this is part of when you get the report back, if
- 22 some data elements don't match, it flags it, and you

- 1 have to look further to see why you're getting the
- 2 flag
- 3 MS. ODOM:
- 4 Q But is a Social Security number able to
- 5 reveal anything about prior residences?
- 6 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A On its own, as a number, and not knowing
- 8 how the software company set the algorithm up, I
- can't answer that, because these days all of that
- 10 stuff is driven off of these big proprietary
- 11 algorithms. And even if you're their customer, they
- 12 won't let you see how exactly the black box works.
- 13 MS. ODOM:
- 14 Q Is a Social Security number required to run
- 15 a credit check?

- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- 17 A There was a time, when I was doing business
- 18 with TRW, that you wouldn't get one back if you
- 19 didn't feed them one. I think these days, with the
- 20 RealPage vendors that we have, that may no longer be
- 21 the case. I haven't looked at the issue in a while.
- 22 You have to understand I go so far back that when I
- 1 did credit checks when I was first a site manager 45
- 2 years ago, you literally called somebody and you
- 3 could hear them rifling, on the other end of the
- 4 phone, through a card index, and they read you what
- 5 they have. These days it's all done inside these
- 6 big algorithms and we don't see much of what it is.
- 7 The site staff just gets a green, yellow or red
- 8 indicator and handles it based on that. I mean, the
- 9 system has been so thoroughly automated now, that
- 10 you don't see inside the black box anymore. I don't
- 11 know precisely how the black box works.
- 12 MS. ODOM:
- 13 Q Do you know whether an ITIN number can be 14 used to run a credit check?
- 15 A Against, since I'm using integrated systems 16 and I'm not running stand-alone credit checks 17 anymore, I can't speak to that.
- 18 Q So you just don't have an opinion one way 19 or another on that?
- 20 MR. DeBETTENCOURT: Objection,
- 21 mischaracterize.
- 22 A (No verbal response.)

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 21 (81 to 84)

Conducted on December 20, 2016 Ω1 83 MS. ODOM: Q And how you write leases is one of the 2 subjects that is avoided? Q Why is it necessary to separately underwrite every adult in a household? A How you write leases is one of the subjects 3 4 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. that I studiously avoid, yes. A In most cases the leases that we write are Q So to the extent that you are giving an called joint and severals. You're a lawyer. You 6 opinion in your report about how to underwrite a lease, it comes from your own personal experience know what a joint and several lease is, so... MS. ODOM: over your career? Q So to make sure I understand your opinion 9 A It comes from the leases I underwrite or in 10 right, it seems to be your testimony that you 10 firms I control or am executive in. 11 underwrite separately every adult applicant, so that And not in any way from information that 12 each individual over the age of 18 in the household 12 you've obtained from anyone else in the residential 13 can be held responsible to pay the lease? 13 property management business? MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, A (Inaudible.) 15 mischaracterize. 15 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. MS. ODOM: Sorry, Mr. Caruso. 16 17 Q Is that right? 17 Objection, form. A We use joint and several leases, so we 18 THE WITNESS: Got it. 19 MR. deBETTENCOURT: You may answer. 19 underwrite on the basis that under the joint and 20 several provisions we can collect. Not everybody 20 A We don't have -- we don't sit and have 21 uses joint and several leases. We do. 21 conversations about that. MS. ODOM: Are you aware of any landlords or 82 84 Q And included in how an entity may write a 1 residential property management companies in 1 2 northern Virginia that do not use joint and several lease would be what documents that entity requires from its prospective tenants to apply? 3 leases? A I'm going to answer that in a very 4 A Mm-hmm. 5 elliptical way, and that is I specifically don't get MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. MS. ODOM: 6 into those kinds of conversations with my colleagues 6 Q And how an entity may assess whether an 7 in Virginia or Maryland, because all of us are of a 8 individual is legally present within the United 8 certain age and remember what happened to two big 9 States? 9 management companies that still exist, and I'm not 10 going to embarrass them by naming them, when the 10 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection. 11 Justice Department came after them for antitrust for A I've been to some training forums where 12 discussing how they went about their business, and 12 there's been generalized discussions about this is 13 ruined three people's careers. So the short answer 13 how you're going to need to report on this and this 14 is what they're going to look at if they challenge 14 is I studiously avoid those conversations when I'm 15 you, and the they in this case being a regulator. 15 having lunch with my friends because there's some 16 So, yeah, from time to time I've been to legal 16 things you never talk about. You never talk about 17 how you price your management services, you never 17 updates on that, where the regulators have shared 18 talk about how you write leases, and you never talk 18 what they want to see. 19 MS. ODOM: 19 about anything that can be deemed antitrust or

22 unemployed?

Q Does Edgewood and Mid-City write joint and

21 several leases where one adult in the household is

20 collusive behavior. And I'm sure, as a member of

21 the Bar, you understand exactly why I do that. 22 There's some subjects you don't discuss.

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 22 (85 to 88)

Conducted on December 20, 2016 87

MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.

- 2 A You're going to need to parse that question 3 more carefully. On the conventional side we may
- well do it. On the assisted side there's a whole
- 5 set of rules and there is literally an 800-page
- manual about how you write leases with family
- compositions on members over 18 that we have to
- comply with.
- 9 MS. ODOM:
- 10 Q Okay. So let's take it on the non-assisted
- 11 side. So for --
- 12 A Mm-hmm.
- O -- properties or complexes that don't 13
- 14 receive financial assistance from the government.
- 15 Mm-hmm.
- If you have, let's say, a couple that 16 Q 17 applies --
- 18 A Mm-hmm.
- O -- for a lease, and let's say the male is 19
- 20 employed, but the female is a stay-at-home parent,
- 21 for example, would Mid-City or Edgewood write such a
- 22 lease?
 - MR. DeBETTENCOURT: Same objection.
- The short answer would be probably, if the
- 3 income was sufficient, and the duration -- and
- the -- the employment history was steady enough that 4
- we didn't regard it as an untoward risk.
- MS. ODOM: 6
- Q Okay. Same question if you have a pair of
- 8 applicants on the non-assisted side, and you have
- 9 one individual, who is able-bodied and working, and
- 10 you have one individual who's disabled and not
- 11 receiving disability income and not able to work,
- 12 would that lease be written as well under those same
- 13 conditions that you stated?
- 14 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection.
- A That would get looked at a lot more
- 16 carefully and taken apart, because it's been my
- 17 experience you have almost nobody that's fully
- 18 disabled that doesn't have some form of transfer 19 payment coming to them.
- 20 MS. ODOM:
- 21 Why would that be looked at more carefully?
- Well, if they're saying -- if somebody is 22

- disabled and there's no transfer of payments, that
- immediately raises the flag, wait a minute, are they
- getting SSI or some other form of transfer payment,
- and they're not declaring it because it would raise
- their family contribution.
- 6 Q But, again, just to remind you, we're
- discussing on the non-assisted side.
- A Yeah, okay. On the non-assisted side we'd
- 9 probably still take a quick look at it, but I think
- 10 if the one who is employed had enough income that
- 11 they could cover it, yeah, but bear in mind, our
- 12 policy is we also make sure that people are here 13 legally.
- Q Well, same question and the same premise,
- 15 on the non-assisted side if you have, let's say, a
- 16 parent who applies, alongside a 19-year-old,
- 17 unemployed child, would such a lease be written even
- 18 though the child over the age of majority was
- 19 unemployed?

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- 20 Is the child a student?
- 21 O Let's assume no.
- 22 Again, you take -- I'll take it apart. And
- 1 if it's an adult child living at home, again, if
- the -- well, we're going to get down in the weeds.

- Is that adult child on the lease as a leaseholder or
- are they on the lease as another adult present in
- the household?
- Q As another adult present in the household. 6
- A Well, that means they're not responsible 7
- 8 for payment of the rent.
- 9 Q Okay. So --
- A And they don't have any hold over tenancy 10 11 rights either.
- Q So just to make sure I understand the
- 13 details of the joint and several leases that we're
- 14 discussing, that Edgewood and Mid-City write, even
- 15 though every adult in the household must submit an
- 16 application, it can be the case that only one adult
- 17 is actually responsible for payment of the lease?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, mis --18 A No, they're both responsible for payment -19
- 20 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Sorry, Mr. Caruso.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Go ahead.
- 22 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection,

7

23 (89 to 92) Conducted on December 20, 2016

1 mischaracterize.

2 You may answer.

A That was where I was going. You gotta be 3

- 4 careful about that and that's far too general an
- 5 answer. You've gotta make sure that the lease is
- 6 going to get paid. And, again, since it's a joint
- and several, you can collect against everybody
- 8 whether they have income or not.
- MS. ODOM:
- 10 O Even if one individual is a resident and 11 one individual --
- 12 A If they're a person on the lease, you're 13 going to take everybody to court, not just the 14 person who has a job.
- 15 Q Should it be different in the case of a 16 husband, for example, who meets all the underwriting 17 requirements, but his wife is unable to, even though 18 she's only a resident?
- 19 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A If it's a spouse, we probably wouldn't cut 21 the lease where they're only a resident. We want 22 everybody to meet all the requirements. That

- 1 doesn't necessarily equate to she has to have a job, 1
- 2 but it means she has to meet all the other
- 3 requirements.
- 4 MS. ODOM:
- 5 Q So to make sure I understand your answer,
- 6 Edgewood and Mid-City would not terminate a lease if
- 7 a male met all of the underwriting requirements,
- 8 including legal status in the U.S., but the wife,
- 9 who was only listed as a resident in the home, did 10 not meet the same requirements?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection,
- 12 mischaracterize.
- MS. ODOM: 13
- 14 Q You can answer.
- A Well, as Counsel said, you're
- 16 mischaracterizing it. You've gotta be cautious
- 17 there, and that is if the other adult present,
- 18 meaning the wife, if they're not here legally, under 19 the tenant selection plans we use, since they're
- 20 consistent on both sides of the business, we're not
- 21 going to cut a lease for her.
- I'm not sure -- I'm not sure we're talking

1 on the same terms. So if you have --

- A I don't want to be accused of -- I don't
- 3 want to be accused of disparate policies on the

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- 4 assisted versus the conventional side. We use one
- 5 set of policies. We've chosen to adopt the federal
- 6 standard across the board.
 - Q Okay. Well, I'd like to -- what I'm trying
- 8 to do is just understand the contours of the
- 9 opinions that you've offered in the case.

10 A Mm-hmm.

- And so in that vein, I'd like to ask you to
- 12 consider this hypothetical, which I'll go ahead and
- 13 lay out. If you have a property that's not assisted
- 14 and it doesn't have a side of the business that is
- 15 assisted, there's no -- there's not going to be a
- 16 claim of disparate treatment on the assisted versus
- 17 non-assisted side, and that property writes a lease
- 18 for a male applicant, who meets underwriting
- 19 criteria, and the only reason why a lease is being
- 20 terminated is because that individual's wife is
- 21 undocumented, would that be something that Mid-City
- 22 and Edgewood would terminate a lease for?

- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A Was the wife there was the wife there 3 originally when the lease was first cut?
- MS. ODOM:
- 5 Well, under our hypothetical the wife has
- always been present in the home, but there's been a
- recent policy change that required her to be listed
- 8 on the lease as a resident.
 - MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A Okay, so, hypothetically -- not how I do
- 11 it, but, hypothetically, there's been a policy
- 12 change and now all the adults have to be on the
- 13 lease. If your policy is that all adults having to
- 14 be on the lease also have to reside here legally,
- 15 you would not lease in that circumstance because
- 16 it's a violation of the admission standards you've
- 17 adopted. You've got to be consistent against your 18 admission standards.
- 19 MS. ODOM:
- Q Okay, well, again, we're talking about an 21 existing lease. We're talking about a lease that
- 22 existed before a policy emerged requiring the wife

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 24 (93 to 96)

Conducted on December 20, 2016

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93	95	
1 to be on the policy.	BY MS. ODOM:	
2 A Which means that the next time the lease	Q I wanted to go back to what was the	
3 comes up for its annual renewal, they have to meet a	3 question that you were asked to answer in your	
4 different set of standards because you've changed	4 report?	
5 your tenant selection standards, which means that	5 MR. DeBETTENCOURT: Objection.	
6 potentially that lease wouldn't be renewed if it	6 To the extent that this question calls for	
7 didn't meet the new standards.	7 communications between counsel, on the basis of	
8 Q Is that a reason for nonrenewal that	8 privilege, I'm going to instruct you not to answer.	
9 Edgewood or Mid-City would put forward?	9 A I would be following the lawyer's	
10 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.	10 instructions.	
11 A We were talking a hypothetical, not	11 MS. ODOM:	
12 Edgewood and Mid-City, because Edgewood and Mid-City	12 Q Are you able to tell me anything about what	
13 follow the federal rule. She wouldn't have gotten	13 the purpose of your report is?	
14 there to begin with because we would have made sure	MR. deBETTENCOURT: Mr. Caruso, you can	
15 when we initially — since 19, I don't know, 94,	15 discuss the facts and data you relied on in your	
16 when these regs came in, we've underwritten	16 report, the opinions that you came to in your report,	
17 everybody the same way.	17 but the communications with counsel about your report	
18 MS. ODOM:	18 are privileged under Rule 26.	
19 Q Have you read the Complaint in this case?	19 THE WITNESS: Okay.	
20 A Nope, I have not. I have not.	20 A Very generally, the questions that were	
21 Q Do you think that the information contained	21 posed to me are what is your normal practice and	
22 in the Complaint may be relevant to your opinion?	22 what do you believe to be the industry practices,	
94	96	
1 A I was asked a fairly narrow set of	1 and that's what I that's what I discussed, those	
2 questions, and that is what do you think is the	2 three basic elements that all tie together.	
3 appropriate set of standards —	3 MS. ODOM:	
4 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Mr. Caruso, to the	4 Q And I believe, as you testified earlier,	
5 extent	5 and I don't want to misstate it, so please correct	
6 THE WITNESS: Go ahead.	6 me if I'm wrong, but your relation of what industry	
7 MR. deBETTENCOURT: to the extent this	7 practice is is based on your own personal knowledge	
8 question calls for any communications with counsel,	8 over your career; is that right?	
9 I'm going to instruct you not to answer. You may	9 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, mischarac	
10 answer the question outside of outside of that.	10 A That's correct.	
11 And I'm instructing you not to answer on the basis of	11 MS. ODOM:	
12 privilege.	12 Q Because it's not advisable or possible to	
13 A Then I think we have our answer.	13 discuss things like how to write a lease with other	
14 MS. ODOM:	14 property management companies?	
15 Q So I want to make sure I understand the	MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection.	
16 extent of the opinions that you're offering in this	16 A As I said earlier, I saw some friends'	
17 case.	17 careers end up in flames over those discussions, so,	
18 A I'll be happy to let you understand it in	18 yes, I've been very careful about that.	
19 three minutes.	19 MS. ODOM:	
20 MS. ODOM: Okay. We'll go off the record	20 Q So we've mentioned a few times, in the	
21 and take a quick break.	21 1990s there became legislation about fair housing,	
22 (Off the record.)	22 and I want to make sure that we're talking about the	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP 25 (97 to 100) Conducted on December 20, 2016

99 1 same act. Are you referring to the Personal 1 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, foundation. 2 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation A Yup, I would have to research that Act of 1996? specifically. I don't want to guess. I don't do MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. guessing, or at least I don't guess very well. MS. ODOM: 5 MS. ODOM: Q It's called PRWORA colloquially. 6 6 Q Do the HUD manuals that you have been A I'd have to go stick my head -- was the describing regulate Waples Mobile Home Park? principal sponsor on that Henry Hyde? A Again, not knowing the financial structure Q I can look and check. 9 underlying it, I don't -- I can't answer that. The reason I say that is we've always Q What would you need to know to be able to 10 11 called it internally the Hyde bill, but 11 answer that question? A At the minimum, I'd need to know how the 12 Representative Hyde was chairman of the committee. 13 You know, I've had to deal, over the years, with all 13 deal is financed, who holds the notes, and what 14 forms of assistance, if any, are granted, and 14 these long acronyms that they invent over on the 15 Hill and I've gotten to the point where, 15 whether or not there's any -- you can get swept into 16 unfortunately, I know most things by bill numbers, 16 these requirements by having community development 17 not by bill titles, because it's just easier. I 17 block grant money in a property, you can get swept 18 think, but can't guarantee, we're talking about the 18 in by having CBE money in the property. You can 19 same thing. 19 get -- there's a number of ways you can get swept Q And your opinion and testimony is that 20 into compliance on these rules by accepting various 21 federal regulations require entities who receive 21 funds for various things, including infrastructure 22 deep assistance to check legal status of tenants? 22 work. So without actually sitting and looking at 100 98 1 the documents, I would decline to speculate. MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, Well, what types of documents would we look mischaracterize. A Among other places, that's a requirement in at for the Waples Mobile Home Park? the HUD Occupancy Handbook, 4350.3. It's also a MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. requirement in the HUD Public Housing Handbook of 5 A You'd probably start with the partnershipping (phonetic). Number one, I don't similar type. I don't remember the PIH. 7 know if it's a partnership or corporation, or an THE WITNESS: That's -- for our recorder, that's Public and Indian Housing. Sorry I was 8 LLC, so you need to figure out what the entity is engaging in HUD speak. 9 for starters. And then you start taking a look at A PIH also has a manual that relates to a 10 what the financing is on it, and you look and see if 11 there's any inbound money from a local agency that 11 different manual number, but that's a requirement of 12 the 4350.3, which goes upwards and connects with the 12 takes federal money, from a state agency that takes 13 federal money, or from a federal agency. You'd have 13 legislation. MS. ODOM: 14 to look, generally, at all of those when you start 14 15 doing it. I know how our deals are structured and Q Do you know whether PRWORA that was passed

16 in 1996 regulates Waples Mobile Home Park? 17 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 18 A Without sitting down and reading the bill, 19 I wouldn't be able to answer that.

20 MS. ODOM: 21 Q And same answer as to whether it applies to

22 any of the other A.J. Dwoskin properties?

22 MS. ODOM:

21 everything we operate.

16 where they are. And the reason we came to the

20 restrictive, complying with the federal rules for

19 as I said before, is we went to the most

17 decision we did was we wanted a one-size-fits-all, 18 so as to not drive our staff crazy. And what we do,

Conducted on December 20, 2016 101 103 Q Would part of that staff be property 1 verification of an individual's legal status in the managers? 2 United States? A Yeah, site managers. 3 3 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, asked and Q So would you expect site managers to know answered. whether a HUD manual applies to a particular 5 MS. ODOM: property? 6 Q You can answer. MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. Because it's more convenient for me to do A I can't speak -- I can't speak for other so, I run all of my tenancy checks through the 9 companies. I can say that over the nature of my 9 company, rather than buying separate licensing. So 10 career, I want my site managers to know how they're 10 the short answer is that my tenants get subjected to 11 regulated and I want them to know the particulars. 11 the same standards as anybody that leases from 12 Having said that, I am unusual in this business in 12 Edgewood. 13 the sense that I also share with my site managers Give us just one second, Mr. Caruso. I 14 something a lot of my colleagues do not. My site 14 think we're just about done. 15 managers know how the properties are financed and my 15 Sure. 16 site managers have access to budgets and payrolls. 16 Q But let me check with my colleague. 17 MS. ODOM: 17 Okay. 18 Q How do you know that your colleagues in the 18 One last question for you. Do you have an 19 industry do not share that financial information 19 opinion on whether undocumented tenants are any more 20 with property managers? 20 dangerous or likely to be a risk to the safety of A I've been in enough meetings and lunches 21 the community than documented individuals? 22 with colleagues, where we've discussed budgeting With all due respect, Counselor, that's 102 1 kind of like asking, when did you stop beating your 1 matters and other things, that there's a wide wife to a politician. 2 variance among firms as to what site managers and 3 Q Well, respectfully, I think it is a little 3 first-level supervisors know and what they don't 4 know in terms of how the company is organized and

- 5 how things are done. Various owners have various
- 6 policies on that. We take a very liberal view, but
- 7 we make it very clear to our folks that all this is 8 considered confidential information, and they're
- going to be sitting in my office, having a career --
- 10 a potentially career-changing discussion if any of
- 11 that material is shared outside of the company, but
- 12 not everybody takes as broad a view as I do.
- Q Do the HUD manuals regulate any A.J.
- 14 Dwoskin policy or property, to your knowledge?
- 15 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A Don't know. Can't answer without knowing 17 how they're structured.
- 18 MS. ODOM:
- Q In your own personal assets that you have 20 in management --
- 21 Mm-hmm. \mathbf{A}
- 22 -- do you have a policy related to the

26 (101 to 104)

- bit different. Do you have any experience that
- leads you to believe they're more dangerous?
- 6 MR. deBETTENCOURT: You may continue,

Mr. Caruso. A It's been my experience that I can have --9 I got - I'm very blessed to have the vast majority 10 of the folks that live with us are good people and 11 do the right thing all the time. We have some 12 number of rogues, fools, thieves, and bad actors 13 among us. I've never differentiated as to whether 14 or not they're here legally or not, because the 15 bottom line is if you're dealing drugs on one of my 16 properties, you're going to be off of my properties. 17 If you're assaulting somebody, you're going to be 18 off of my properties. And whether you're here 19 legally or not is not going to be one of the first 20 considerations in my mind. The first consideration 21 in my mind is you're going. So that may be an 22 elliptical answer, but that's what it comes down to.

27 (105 to 108)

Conducted on December 20, 2016 107 I haven't studied the statistics. So there you are, 1 capacity? 2 Jov. A On a fairly regular basis, when we do 3 MS. ODOM: 3 refinancings, we have to submit with the refinancing Q So if I understand your answer, you don't applications evaluations of crime in both the have any specialized -- or knowledge one way or neighborhood and in our particular properties, another as to whether undocumented immigrants pose a because that's reviewed as part of grant-making and greater risk to safety than documented tenants? other decisions, so there have been instances where MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, 8 I've had to get intensively into data. I have also 9 mischaracterize --9 had to respond to, in the District of Columbia, 10 10 petitions to seize property over criminal behavior (Simultaneous conversation.) A (Inaudible.) 11 on properties for some of my fee owners. Not to 11 12 MS. ODOM: 12 make a long answer out of it, the Assistant U.S. 13 Q Do you have any --13 Attorneys have a statute in D.C. that allows them to 14 (At which time the court reporter requested 14 initiate procedures to seize property if they see 15 clarification regarding the answer.) 15 that the owner is not combatting crime and drugs A Well, let's just go with the objection, but 16 effectively, and I've had to respond to some of 17 we have bad behavior. I don't try to parse it 17 those complaints post raids. 18 between people that are here legally and people that Q Did the data that you're referring to in 19 are not. Bad actors are going to go out of my 19 that answer relate in any way to an undocumented 20 immigrant subset of the population in either the 20 properties. 21 MS. ODOM: 21 communities of Mid-City and Edgewood or outside? Mr. Caruso, do you have any specialized A Among the data you have to pull is you have 22 106 108 1 knowledge as to whether crime rates are higher or 1 to get with the police agencies, pull the arrest lower in an undocumented immigrant population as records, and pull the backgrounds on the arrest opposed to citizens or documented immigrants? records, in some cases your lawyers will be looking A We, from time to time, as part of our at the court records, so occasionally, reporting to ownership, look at major crimes and we coincidentally, it will pop up as to what status 6 work with the police agencies of all the places 6 might be. In most cases it's going to be 7 where I work. And it has been my experience that 7 demonstrating that you are taking the necessary 8 criminal behavior is more tied to lack of income and 8 steps not to admit people to a property who are 9 lack of education than just about any other index 9 likely to prey on other people and who are not going 10 you're going to find. 10 to be in there distributing drugs and in there Q Do you have any specialized knowledge as to 11 distributing -- in the case of the District, in the 12 whether undocumented tenants are any more likely not 12 case of Maryland, in there distributing weapons. 13 to pay rent? 13 Virginia has much different set of rules regarding 14 Meaning do I have empirical knowledge of 14 weapons than do the District and Maryland and New \mathbf{A} 15 that? 15 Jersey. O Sure. Let's start there. Q But did those efforts to collect and report 16 **17** No, I don't have empirical data on that. 17 data tell you anything or enable you to learn 18 Q Do you have any sort of data on that? 18 anything about whether undocumented immigrants are A Occasional conversations over lunch with 19 more likely to be violent, for example, than a 20 some of my colleagues, but none of it would rise to 20 documented person? 21 the level of even the most basic scientific rigor. 21 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.

22

A I haven't seen any data leaping off the

Have you researched it otherwise in any

7

110

28 (109 to 112) Conducted on December 20, 2016

- 1 page speaking one way or the other to it. The only
- 2 corollary that I would suggest, because I have seen
- 3 this, is to the extent someone is working in the
- 4 black economy, it makes them more prey to earning
- 5 their living in inappropriate ways, meaning if the
- only job you can get is one distributing drugs or
- moving illegal weapons or stealing automobiles, you
- might see a correlation.
- MS. ODOM:
- Q Is it your opinion that individuals engaged 10
- 11 in those criminal enterprises are more likely to be
- 12 undocumented immigrants?
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 13
- A No, I didn't say that. I just said if you
- 15 can't get legitimate employment otherwise. Now,
- 16 there's a lot of reasons why you might not be able
- 17 to get legitimate employment otherwise, not least of
- 18 which is you've recently been released from prison,
- 19 not least of which is you don't have an education,
- 20 not least of which is a number of things, but, you
- 21 know, recognizing that I've had to spend a lot of
- 22 the last 30 years fighting drugs and other things in
- 1 properties, we see that when we are on the back side
- of a raid and trying to make sure that we don't
- admit those kinds of folks again.
- 4 MS. ODOM:
- Q Do you have any specialized knowledge as to
- whether undocumented tenants are more likely to
- leave a property without giving appropriate notice
- to the landlord?
- 9 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- A I don't think I have a strong opinion one 11 way or the other on that.
- 12 MS. ODOM:
- Q Setting aside whether you have an opinion
- 14 on it, do you have any knowledge about it?
- 15 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection.
- A Our underwriting process is strict enough
- 17 that the rate of skips, meaning people leaving,
- 18 owing you money, or just disappearing in the middle
- 19 of the night -- the rate of skips we have is a very
- 20 low number. It's down in the single digits, and I
- 21 mean well down in the single digits, so the answer
- 22 is, by and large, we don't have much in the way of

skips, but we attribute that, for the most part,

111

- that we are pretty careful on admits.
- 3 MS. ODOM:
- Q Outside the Edgewood and Mid-City context,
- are you aware of whether skips, as you put it, are
- more likely to be undocumented immigrants?
 - A I don't really have any data on it because
- 8 I haven't had any conversations with any of my
- 9 colleagues on it one way or the other.
- Q Do you have any specialized knowledge as to
- 11 whether it's more difficult to properly identify a
- 12 prospective tenant? And for reference, I'm looking
- 13 at page 2 of your report, where it discusses the
- 14 fundamental part of underwriting a lease application
- 15 is having proper identification of the applicant.
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 16
- 17 You may answer.
- 18 A You need to know who they are and you need
- 19 to be able to determine what their payment history
- 20 is and what have you.
- 21 MS. ODOM:
- 22 Is it your opinion that you're unable to
- determine identity and payment history on an
 - undocumented immigrant?
 - 3 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection,
 - mischaracterize.
 - 5 THE WITNESS: I think you said it nicely.
 - 6 A That does mischaracterize my view a little
 - bit. What it comes down to is it's much more
 - difficult to get data because you don't know where
 - to find it and you can't do a sufficient background.
 - 10 MS. ODOM:
 - Q Do you have any specialized knowledge as to
 - 12 what information is required to pull up an
 - 13 individual on the sex offender registry?
 - 14 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
 - A We've talked about that earlier. It varies
 - 16 widely by state and locality, so depending on where
 - 17 you're operating and depending what you're trying to
 - 18 pull, you may have to follow a different procedure.
 - 19 MS. ODOM:
 - Q Do you have any specialized knowledge as to
 - 21 whether a Social Security number is ever required,
 - 22 no matter what state you're in, to pull up an

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP Conducted on December 20, 2016

29 (113 to 116)

113 115 1 individual on the sex offender registry? 1 that in the conventional, non-assisted, and non-HUD 2 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection. context it's a reasonable practice to require proof of legal status as part of an application process? 3 A The records I've seen are generally, among 4 other things, going to have that number in among a 4 A I think so. 5 bunch of other data, not least of which it will also Q And why does that opinion that you just 6 have convict numbers if they've served time, but gave, that you think so, apply to the conventional, 7 it's going to have other identifying data. It's non-assisted, and non-HUD context? 8 going to have data of birth. And in most cases you A Well, a couple reasons, Justin. Number 9 can have most of the data that's on the booking 9 one, particularly when you get into medium-sized and 10 sheet, too, plus, in a lot of instances, you're 10 larger firms, you have to be very careful to be dead 11 going to have online availability for mugshots. 11 consistent about everything you do, or else you're 12 You've got to be especially careful with sex 12 going to be facing all kinds of issues all the time. 13 offender data because the data, you can get false 13 As I said earlier, I've worked, in the last 25 years 14 positives real easily, and you don't want to accuse 14 or thereabouts, in mixed portfolio companies, where 15 someone of something that's not true, so you gotta 15 we had both unassisted and assisted, and we've 16 be really careful on vetting out those records. 16 always adopted the more restrictive set of standards 17 MS. ODOM: 17 just because it gives us the consistency and doesn't Q Is a Social Security number necessary to 18 create Fair Housing problems. You've gotta -- you 19 vet those records? 19 know, you have to be very cautious in terms of how 20 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 20 you operate in relation to confidentiality support, 21 A Once again, since everybody does their 21 good vetting support. You want good residents and a 22 files differently, I can't tell you how important it 22 good solid community, and you need to make sure 114 116 1 is vis-à-vis the other pieces of information without 1 everybody else is safe. So the long and short of it you saying, okay, in Fairfax County what do you have is I think it's part of the whole package. And it to have, and then I have to go look up what I have became more so when Congress made the changes and to do in Fairfax County, because that's - the made it illegal to give anybody work unless they process is inherently local and it varies enough were here legally. So you kind of look at the broad that you can't make broad generalizations about it. sweep of this stuff and you say is this a -- you MS. ODOM: All right, thanks, Mr. Caruso. I know, is it unusual to do that. And I don't think think that's it for me. I'm not sure if 8 it is. I think it's a consistent, thoughtful Mr. deBettencourt has anything. policy. 10 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Mr. Caruso, I do have a Q Isn't it true that asking for immigration 11 couple questions. Actually, I'm going to take just a 11 documents from the U.S. government helps a landlord 12 two-minute break here. 12 verify the identity of an applicant or tenant? 13 MS. ODOM: Sure. A Yeah. As a matter of fact, in most cases MR. deBETTENCOURT: And then I'll have some 14 14 you have to get decent third-party verification, and 15 questions for you, Mr. Caruso. So we're going to 15 government documents is -- are among the gold 16 take a break and then I'll have a couple questions. 16 standards in terms of decent third-party 17 (Off the record.) 17 documentation. You might recall, I don't know, I

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18 guess three hours ago when we started this, Joy

20 you do it, but it's a very desperate last measure

19 mentioned, you know, can you take pay stubs. Well,

21 because you want better justification than that and

22 you want something that's a more secure document if

18

19

EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENDANTS

BY MR. deBETTENCOURT:

21 deBettencourt. I just have a couple questions to

22 follow up on Counsel's questions. Isn't it true

Q Hi Mr. Caruso, this is Justin

30 (117 to 120) Conducted on December 20, 2016 117 119

1 you can get it.

Q Isn't it true that the U.S. government

- 3 vets -- let me rephrase. Isn't it true that when a
- 4 person obtains immigration documents from the U.S.
- government, the U.S. government vets their
- background?
- MS. ODOM: Objection, foundation.
- 8 MR. deBETTENCOURT:
- O You may answer.
- 10 A I assume so. I don't believe they issue
- 11 documents just on somebody's say-so. I'm not
- 12 intimately familiar with the level of backgrounding
- 13 they do, but, you know (inaudible) --
- (At which time the court reporter requested
- 15 clarification regarding the answer.)
- THE WITNESS: Mr. deBettencourt, why don't 17 you try asking the question again and we'll start it
- 18 all over and she can just dump that section.
- MR. deBETTENCOURT:
- Q Isn't it true that when someone applies for
- 21 immigration documents from the U.S. government, the
- 22 U.S. government vets their background?

- MS. ODOM: And I'll restate the objection to
- foundation.
- A Based on what I know, I believe so, but I
- 4 don't do those. I'm not intimate with what they do
- by way of background, but I know they do do
- background work.
- MR. deBETTENCOURT:
- Q Mr. Caruso, on page 1 of your report you
- 9 state, any applicant who does not have legal status
- 10 to work will be unable to obtain employment that can
- 11 be verified as to duration and amount to permit
- 12 underwriting.
- 13 A Yes.
- Q Isn't it true that you base that statement
- 15 on the fact that if a person does not have legal
- 16 status to work, it'll be difficult for them to
- 17 obtain -- difficult for them to obtain employment in
- 18 the United States?
- 19 MS. ODOM: Objection, form.
- A Well, we know that with the I-9
- 21 requirement, and now the E-Verify requirement, you
- 22 gotta have status to be able to work. And if you

- 1 have an employer that's following the laws, it's
- going to flag somebody when you put them in the
- 3 E-Verify system. And that doesn't mean you don't
- 4 employ them. It just means you gotta do a further
- 5 investigation to determine what's going on before
- 6 you, you know, banish them to Siberia, as it were.
- 7 But you want to work with documents that are
- 8 independently verifiable by third parties to make
- 9 sure that you know where somebody is coming from.
- 10 And my general sense of it is if you've got somebody
- 11 that's working for someone that is openly violating
- 12 a federal statute, I'm not sure I can rely on any
- 13 information that person is going to give me.
- 14 MR. deBETTENCOURT:
- Q Mr. Caruso, are you basing your opinions in 16 this report on your knowledge of the industry, in 17 addition to your own experience?
- A Yeah. I mean, I've been part of the
- 19 industry -- and as you saw my résumé, as opposing
- 20 counsel saw my résumé, I've been fortunate to be
- 21 elected to various positions in industry training
- 22 associations over the years. Most recently I was
 - 120
- 1 president of the Southeastern Affordable Housing
- Management Association for ten years. I sit on --
- 3 I'm this year's Chairman of the Institute of Real
- Estate Management's Federal Advocacy Board. So I
- 5 hang around with a lot of people on a regular basis,
- 6 because now that I'm retired, I have much more time
- 7 to spend on the Hill dealing with legislative
- 8 matters. So this is not just an opinion developed
- 9 working inside my own church as it were. I take a
- 10 more ecumenical approach, and I have a lot of
- 11 friends in the industry, too, and we all work
- 12 together, because, you know, as they say, if you
- 13 don't hang together, you will most assuredly hang
- 14 separately. I believe that was Benjamin Franklin,
- 15 wasn't it?
- Q I'm not sure. You probably know best. 16
- **17** A I think that was Franklin when the
- 18 Declaration of Independence was signed. And that
- 19 is, Gentlemen, if we don't hang together, we will 20 most assuredly hang separately.
- MR. deBETTENCOURT: All right, well, at this
- 22 point I don't have any further questions.

Transcript of George C. Caruso, CPM, RAM, SHCM, HCCP Conducted on December 20, 2016

31 (121 to 124)

123 MS. ODOM: So I do have a couple questions. 1 an individual's legal status in the United States? 2 FURTHER EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFFS Since that was one of the hottest 3 BY MS. ODOM: legislative topics when Representatives Gallegly and Q You said you base the opinions in your Hyde introduced the bill in the mid '90s, I probably report on your knowledge of the industry. And I spent 20 percent of my time for 18 months on those just want to clarify. There are some things about issues while that bill was in its gestation. the industry that you can't or don't talk about with Q But in recent years, in the context of your friends, and one of those things -having lunch with friends or having discussions with A That's true. 10 One of those things is how to underwrite a colleagues or associates in other residential 11 lease? 10 management companies --12 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, (Simultaneous conversation.) 11 13 mischaracterize. 12 A Something will occasionally --A One of those things -- the things I don't 13 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 15 talk about with my friends most specifically is I 14 A -- but I wouldn't regard it as substantive. 16 don't talk about pricing, I don't talk about lease 15 (At which time the court reporter requested 17 terms and conditions more generally. We do talk, in 18 general terms, about how to underwrite a lease, but 16 clarification regarding the answer.) 19 we don't talk in specific terms about it because A Something will occasionally pop up, but I 17 20 you've got to be careful about what you do and don't 18 wouldn't regard it as a substantive conversation. 21 discuss. 19 MS. ODOM: 22 MS. ODOM: Q Meaning that you do not have substantive 20 21 conversations about legal status in the United 22 States being a prerequisite to tenancy at your 122 124 Q And some of the specific terms that you 1 properties? don't discuss would be prerequisites to gaining a MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form, 3 lease at a particular property? mischaracterize. 4 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Same objection. A I've had lots of conversations over the 5 A Tenant selection plans are an internal years about how we're going to lobby the government document I would -- I and a number of my colleagues to get regulations that we can live with. I can't are uncomfortable sharing those around, at least in remember having a conversation with anybody in the their whole form. Occasionally we'll have comments last couple of years on how I deal with an on, well, what are you doing on this issue and we'll individual tenant. 10 kick it around a little bit, but, no, that's -- I 10 MS. ODOM: 11 regard that as a proprietary business document Q Or generally about what a particular 12 inside our company and I advise my staff they're not 12 property complex does by way of a policy on 13 allowed to share it around. We do, however -- and I 13 documented immigrants or undocumented immigrants? 14 want to put this out on the table. If an applicant 14 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 15 asks us for a copy of the tenant selection plan, 15 A That would generally be fair. 16 they are promptly provided one, because they are 16 MS. ODOM: 17 legally entitled to see the document and they're 17 Q You testified a few minutes ago in response 18 entitled to take it away. I just don't share it 18 to Mr. deBettencourt's question that in the 19 around when I'm having lunch with people. 19 conventional, non-assisted, non-HUD space it is 20 MS. ODOM: 20 reasonable to have a policy that requires a 21 Q Do you share the details of your 21 prospective tenant to be legally present in the 22 properties' tenant selection plans as it relates to 22 United States? Do you recall that?

Conducted on December 20, 2016 125 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, 1 thinks that's a -- you know, that knowingly housing mischaracterize. 2 illegals is a good business plan. It's just not. A I do. 3 Q And since you haven't heard anybody say MS. ODOM: anything about the fact that that would be an Q Why do you think that is reasonable? unreasonable thing, have you heard anything one way or the other when you're discussing this with your A As I indicated in the materials that I gave Mr. deBettencourt, that are now part of this colleagues? 8 pleadings, if they can't legally work in this MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. 9 country, how are they going to earn the money to pay 9 A I'm going to answer this in an elliptic 10 their rent? You are, in most cases, granting 10 way. We've just gone through an election season 11 someone credit to the tune of somewhere between 11 that's been very divisive and immigration has been 12 15,000 and 40,000 a year, depending on the rent and 12 on the front burner for most of this period of time. 13 where the location might be, at least with regard to 13 And I'm not taking a position either way. We have a 14 my portfolio. And while I don't do mobile home 14 president. He was elected. I'm not talking about 15 parks, I do enough landlord-tenant law to know that 15 that. But immigration has popped up again as a big 16 in the event where you have that complication and 16 issue this year and I've had some conversations with 17 you have what's effectively a ground lease, and you 17 folks who say, God, it would be nice if we got this 18 have to get back possession of it, that's going to 18 over with and got to the point where we have some 19 be a long fight in the courts and you could lose a 19 standard, we weren't constantly fighting about it. 20 lot of money. So the short answer is I want to make 20 It's just -- it's been difficult for everybody. 21 sure that I'm doing the right job for my owners, who 21 MS. ODOM: 22 are underwriting, carefully enough, including that 22 Difficult for property managers? 126 1 they can legally work here, that the likelihood is 1 \mathbf{A} Yeah. 2 they'll pay their lease and they'll take their lease Because they're on the hook to verify legal 3 to term. That's what we're after is we offer status in the United States? 4 accommodation, in exchange for that they give us 5 money and they have the right to that space for a 5 6 fixed period of time, be it an apartment, a mobile hard place. The rock is legal status to work, 7 home lot, a commercial building, whatever.

MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form. A We're between the proverbial rock and the underwriting, and what have you, and the hard place 8 is Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. And you 9 don't want to find yourself in those two places. 10 And we have consistently, as an industry, found 11 ourselves in that position for the last 18 months to 12 2 years, as in a adjunct to this greater policy

13 debate about what to do about the roughly 12 million

14 people that are in this country that don't have a

32 (125 to 128)

127

128

15 legal right to be here. 16 MS. ODOM:

Q So in the absence of some federal 18 requirement requiring a residential property company

19 to verify legal status in the United States, it's

20 easier if that company doesn't verify legal status?

21 Would that be a fair statement?

MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.

- Q I believe you also testified you didn't
- 9 think that was an unusual policy? What is that --
- 10 A I don't think it's -- I don't think it's 11 unusual.
- 12 MR. deBETTENCOURT: Objection, form.
- MS. ODOM: 13
- Q What is that based on? What makes you say 15 that it's not unusual?
- A In the sitting, having lunch, and 17 walking-around conversations with my colleagues, 18 when tenant selection plans come up and there's a 19 question about it, I haven't heard anybody suggest 20 that having a citizenship -- you know, having --21 being here illegally — citizenship is the wrong
- 22 term. Being here illegally, I don't know if anybody | 22

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33 (129 to 132)

	129
1	A I'm not sure I would concur with that
2	formulation of it, no.
3	MS. ODOM:
4	Q What about that formulation of it do you
5	not concur with?
6	A Well, we touched on this, I think, half a
7	dozen times, and I've tried to be consistent about
8	it, but what it boils down to is when we're leasing
9	stuff, the rent has to get paid. And if they can't
1	be legally employed, how do you assure yourself that
	the rent is going to get paid.
12	
1	
1	me, Mr. Caruso. Thanks for your time.
14	· ·
15	
16	Mr. Caruso. Have a good vacation.
17	(Off the record at 3:35 p.m.)
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
F	130
1	CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER-NOTARY REPUBLIC
2	
3	I, LISA KIRK, the officer before whom the
4	foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify
5	that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct
6	record of the testimony given; that said testimony
7	was taken by me stenographically and thereafter
8	reduced to typewriting under my direction; that
9	reading and signing was not requested; and that I am
10	
11	of the parties to this case and have no interest,
	financial or otherwise, in its outcome.
13	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
14	hand and affixed my notarial seal this 4th day of
15	January, 2017.
16	•
17	July 31, 2018
18 19	Firskill (C)
20	NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
21	THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
1	Notary Registration Number - 7057881
1	
1	